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REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY
RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION
D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE



UNEP - PNUE

MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN
PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE

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Meeting of the Focal Points of the
Regional Marine Pollution Emergency
Response Centre for the Mediterranean
Sea (REMPEC)

Malta, 22 - 26 October 1996.

REMPEC/WG.14/17
6 November 1996

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REPORT
OF THE MEETING OF FOCAL POINTS OF THE
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE
FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

Malta, 22 - 26 October 1996

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has been convened in Malta from the 22-26 October 1996, pursuant to the decision of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention which agreed that a Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points be organized during 1996 (UNEP (OCA)/MED IG.5/16, Barcelona June 1995).
2. The principal objectives of the Meeting of Focal Points were:
 - a) to examine and evaluate the implementation of the programme of activities of REMPEC for the period October 1994 - October 1996;
 - b) to review the current state of regional, sub-regional and national systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution and to examine the actions to be taken to strengthen these systems;
 - c) to review the development of preparedness for and response to maritime related accidents involving hazardous substances;
 - d) to consider the regional cooperation for prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities within the new context of MAP Phase II;
 - e) to consider the need for the revision of the Emergency Protocol within the new context of MAP Phase II;
 - f) to consider the role and function of REMPEC within the new context of MAP Phase II;
 - g) to prepare a report, which will be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, containing proposal regarding: regional cooperation, the need for the revision of the Emergency Protocol, the role and function of REMPEC, which shall include a proposed medium term programme reflecting a strategy based on priorities with corresponding activities, and indication of the financial implication.
3. All REMPEC Official Focal Points were invited to participate in the Focal Points' Meeting. Relevant United Nations Organizations and other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations were also invited to attend the Meeting. Relevant industry representatives were also invited to attend in the capacity of observers.

ATTENDANCE

4. The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

ALBANIA	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
CROATIA	MALTA
CYPRUS	MONACO
EGYPT	MOROCCO
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY	SLOVENIA
FRANCE	SPAIN
GREECE	SYRIA
ISRAEL	TUNISIA
ITALY	TURKEY

by representatives from the following United Nations Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/CO-ORDINATING UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME/INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT (UNEP IE)
- WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)

by a representative from the following Inter-Governmental Organization:

- WORLD BANK GROUP

by representatives from the following Non-Governmental Organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (IPIECA)
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LTD. (ITOPF)
- OIL INDUSTRY INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION FORUM (E & P FORUM)
- EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CEFIC)

5. A complete list of participants is attached in **Annex I** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The Meeting was opened by the Honorable Dr. Stanley Zammit, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment of the Republic of Malta. He explained that although REMPEC has been successful over the years, it does not mean that it is not necessary to reassess its objectives and functions, in particular when twenty years had now passed since the formulation of the Emergency Protocol which gave rise to the creation of REMPEC. He noted with interest that it was the intention of the Meeting to consider the need for the revision of the Protocol within the context of MAP Phase II together with role of REMPEC in this new context and that the Meeting will be preparing a report which will be submitted to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention. He was certain that in discussing such an issue as well as the ongoing activities of the Centre, it could help to render the Centre an even more effective tool in the hands of the Contracting Parties. He concluded by noting the importance of the attendance to the Meeting by representative of the oil and chemical industries and underlined that industry should more and more assume the role of a partner with environmental protection agencies to pursue policies towards sustainable development.

7. Mr. Bin Okamura, Senior Deputy Director, Marine Environment Division, speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. William A. O'Neil joined the Hon. Dr. S. Zammit in welcoming the participants to the Meeting of Focal Points. He noted that the Centre had accomplished much and is expected to do more, however the success of the Centre depended on the collaborative support of the Contracting Parties, international organizations as well as industry. Underlining the importance of this Meeting, he drew the attention of the participants that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Montpellier gave this Meeting a clear mandate to consider the issue of regional co-operation within the new context of MAP Phase II and to submit proposals to the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties. In this regard, he added that expanding the Centre's activities to prevention would be a natural route to take. He emphasized that the enforcement of IMO Conventions and other technical instruments by flag States and by port States will contribute towards the prevention of marine casualties.

8. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to the Government of Malta for continuing to host and support REMPEC and that the IMO is looking forward to having discussions with the Government of Malta for the relocation of the Centre as a follow-up to the pledge given by the Government of Malta at the Meeting in Montpellier.

9. Mr F.S. Civili, MAP First Officer, greeted the participants on behalf of the MAP Coordinator, Mr L. Chabason, and stressed the importance that the Meeting had in this particular moment when the important decisions taken by the Contracting Parties in Barcelona in 1995 and Montpellier in 1996 had to be translated into action. He therefore considered the Meeting of the REMPEC's Focal Points specially important for the indications which at this stage it could provide for the future activities of the Centre, in particular in view of the analysis of the role and the functions of all Regional Activity Centres which had to be made as requested by the Contracting Parties in Montpellier. He thanked Dr. Stanley Zammit, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment of the Republic of Malta for the very positive attitude and the continuous support of the Government of Malta towards REMPEC and welcomed his assurances for a prompt solution to the issue of the relocation of the Centre. He finally thanked Mr Sainlos and his staff for the very efficient work carried out and for the excellent preparation of the Meeting and Mr Okamura, IMO for the continuous assistance provided by his Organization to REMPEC.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

10. The participants decided to apply, mutatis mutandis, to the Meeting the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

Election of Officers

11. Participants unanimously elected Mr. Jean-Paul Darcis (Monaco), as Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Malek Smaoui (Tunisia), as Vice-Chairman and Mr. Jean-François Lévy (France) as Rapporteur.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

12. Mr Civili informed the Meeting that because of sudden and unforeseen circumstances, he unfortunately had to return to Athens. For this reason he asked if during the discussion of Agenda item 4 he could address the Meeting on a number of issues related to other agenda items.

13. The delegations, while stressing that the absence of the representative of the MAP Coordinator during the Meeting would be regrettable in view of the importance of the subjects to be discussed, accepted the proposal.

14. The Meeting adopted the Agenda as in **Annex II** of the present report. The list of documents is presented in **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REMPEC'S PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

15. The Meeting was informed of the present status of the implementation of REMPEC's programme of activities for the period 1995-1996.

Agenda Item 4.1: Progress Report

16. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/4/1 which contained a brief and general presentation of the activities carried out by the Centre since the last Meeting of the Focal Points and which outlined some of the major achievements of the past years as well as the problems encountered. He stressed the importance to the Meeting as regards the future policy within the new context of the MAP Phase II. He recalled the decision of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties held in Montpellier which requested the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC examine the question of regional co-operation in the field of prevention and response to marine pollution from sea-based activities.

17. After the presentation made by the Director of REMPEC, a discussion took place among the delegations on the importance of co-operation in this field between the Ministry in charge of maritime transport and the Ministry in charge of environment in their respective countries. All delegations were of the view that co-operation in this field between the two relevant Ministries is essential. All delegations in the Meeting were also concerned with the insufficient means of REMPEC. It was therefore requested that these means be reinforced and it was suggested to seek funds from sources other than the MTF budget.

18. The delegation of the European Community emphasized the two projects financed by the European Community under the financial mechanism - LIFE - which are related to subjects discussed by this Meeting. These are: the project concerning the development of a sub-regional contingency plan among Cyprus, Egypt and Israel which was conducted by REMPEC and; the project on Port State Control (PSC) currently carried out by the IMO. He informed the Meeting of the recent development related to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. He mentioned the first Meeting of Experts on the implementation of the Multi-Annual Rolling Work Programme for maritime transport in the Mediterranean within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership which was held in Cyprus the previous week (Larnaca, 14-16 October 1996). Documents concerning this meeting were distributed as information.

19. Mr Civili briefly recalled the present status of MAP as a consequence of the significant process of revision of the entire Barcelona system (the Action Plan, the Convention and the relevant Protocols). He stated that the process, as approved by the Contracting Parties in 1993, was being concluded with the expected adoption, in November 1996, of the Annexes of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity. He stated that the revision would require a deep analysis of all components of MAP to identify new roles and functions in view of the new objectives of the Programme. In particular, he recalled that the Meeting of Contracting Parties held in Montpellier in July 1996 had specifically asked the Secretariat to review the roles and functions of all Regional Activity Centres and MEDU and therefore the opinion of REMPEC's Focal Points, which had to discuss this issue under agenda item 13, would provide important indications and would greatly contribute to the overall decisions.

20. Concerning the 1998-1999 budget of REMPEC, and of MAP in general, Mr Civili stated that in principle, it would be difficult to expect a substantial increase in relation to the budget of 1997. The Contracting Parties had in fact clearly indicated that any additional funds should be sought mainly from outside sources and that, to this effect, the budget should be presented as much as possible in the form of projects. He said that the excellent relation between MAP (and its Centres) and the E.C., the World Bank and the other donors was, in this connection, very promising. He added that in any case the present situation of MAP, in view of the generalized financial difficulties prevailing in most countries, was to be seen as positive, considering the increase of the MAP budget of 3.5 per cent approved in Montpellier, compared to the substantial decreases decided, in some cases by the same countries, for many other international programmes and organizations.

21. With reference to agenda item 12, concerning the need for a revision of the Emergency Protocol, Mr. Civili recalled that such a revision had not been proposed for inclusion in the overall process covering the Barcelona system and that this decision had been confirmed by the last Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points. The MAP Co-ordinating Unit, which had the responsibility of the management of the legal component of MAP, was therefore expecting clear indications from the present Meeting to which it would give great consideration. However, in expressing MEDU's opinion, Mr Civili stressed that the process of revision of a Protocol was a lengthy, difficult and expensive process which should be initiated only if considered absolutely indispensable, i.e. only if the proposed amendments would provide a clear added-value to the existing regional or international legal instruments and their content would be of strict normative character.

22. This intervention provoked regrets by some delegations which feared a low appreciation for REMPEC's activities by the Co-ordinating Unit. These delegations also emphasized that if the activities of REMPEC were to be extended as was to be discussed under agenda item 11, it should be done in the appropriate legal framework and this meant amending the Protocol. As regards the normative character of the possible amendments, this would be limited as no regional rules should be imposed on ships' construction and equipment, such being international by nature and the exclusive responsibility of the IMO.

Agenda Item 4.2: Administration of the Centre

23. The Director of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG.14/4/2 which concerned the administration of the Centre, namely staff and premises.

24. The Director of REMPEC recalled that during the Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties in Montpellier in July 1996, the Government of Malta confirmed that US\$350,000 have been allocated for the relocation of REMPEC to new premises. A working group on this matter involving the Director of the Administrative Division of the IMO and the Maltese authorities will be convened next November.

25. The Director of REMPEC insisted on the absolute need for the Centre to have a professional officer in charge of administration and finance. He emphasized that the discontinuation of the secondment of a French engineer by the French Government was seriously affecting the running of the Centre.

26. The Meeting expressed the wish that the Centre be given the resources it needs to operate suitably, particularly staff (cf. also paragraph 126 of this report).

Agenda Item 4.3: Regional Information System

Agenda Item 4.3.1: Directories, Lists, Inventories, Catalogue

27. The Meeting was informed by the Technical Expert of REMPEC of the present state of Part B of the Regional Information System - Lists and Inventories described in document REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/1. The Meeting took note of the current progress in the development of Part B of the Regional Information System.

28. With regard to the Catalogue of Response Equipment and Products (RIS/B/3), the Technical Expert recalled the principle of avoiding the duplication of work already carried out by other organizations and for this reason the catalogue had not been updated since the 1988 edition. He also noted the complexity of work involved for the production of an updated catalogue, in particular the transfer of data to a new database platform as well as its processing. Taking into consideration these facts as well as the current staffing problems at the Centre, an updated catalogue will be beyond the Centre's capacities.

29. The Meeting took note of the information given and had an exchange of view on the way updates could be best highlighted in the relevant documents. One delegation was of the view that due to the current development in e-mail technology, consideration should be given to using this means as a way of transferring information. Some delegations were of the opinion that REMPEC should publish, on a yearly basis, a summary of the publications making up the RIS.

Agenda Item 4.3.2: Data Banks, Simulation Models and Decision Support System

30. The Chemical Expert introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/2 and informed the Meeting that the Centre had continued with its efforts in the last biennium to increase its information base so that it will be in a position to provide rapidly to the national authorities the necessary information in the case of a maritime related accident involving hazardous substances.

31. With regard to the "TROCS" database, the Chemical Expert explained that further development had been envisaged but due to the absence of a computer expert this work was unfortunately suspended indefinitely. The Meeting noted that the Italian chemical industry offered to collaborate on the subject of databases/models with REMPEC.

32. With regard to a decision support system for hazardous substances, the Meeting was informed that the Centre had the opportunity to evaluate the new CAMEO programme as a tool to aid decision-makers in preparedness and response in port areas. The system still needed some fine-tuning. The Centre is now awaiting the software which should be made available shortly to the Centre.

33. The Meeting noted the progress made.

Agenda Item 4.3.3 Operational guides and technical documents

34. The Chemical Expert of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/3 which described the current status of the operational guides and technical documents constituting Part C and D of the Regional Information System. A brief explanation of the proposed contents of the Guide to Marine Spill Countermeasures for hazardous substances was also given. The Meeting took note of the documents prepared so far and those to be prepared in the future.

35. Some delegations commented that responding to a maritime casualty involving hazardous substances is a complicated affair and that inexperienced responders might consider the information in such a guide as a "cook-book" recipe to response to an incident involving hazardous substances and therefore cautioned against the misuse of instructions given in such a guide. The Tunisian representative representing the oil industry commented on the high risk faced by those responding to chemical incidents and on the necessity of appropriate training. This view was shared by the Meeting.

36. The E.C delegation informed the Meeting of the request made by the Parties to the Bonn Agreement to the European Commission to consider taking an initiative as regards the co-ordination of work carried out in relevant international organizations with a view to harmonizing the manuals of the European regional agreements dealing with counter-pollution activities.

Agenda Item 4.4: Training

37. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/4/4 which contained a brief progress report on training activities carried out by the Centre during the period under review. He emphasized an overall increase in training activities organized by REMPEC, which was possible due to an increase in the funds allocated to training in the Centre's budget, and to the fact that these funds became more regularly available.

38. The Meeting took note of the information, provided by the delegation of Turkey, concerning the Joint Regional Training Course on Preparedness for and Response to Marine Pollution Incidents involving Oil and other Hazardous Substances in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea - MEDIPOL 95 - held in October 1995 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Meeting expressed its thanks to the Turkish authorities for hosting this course.

39. The Greek delegate informed the Meeting of the offer put forward by the Greek authorities to host the MEDIPOL 96 regional training course in Athens, between 29 November and 7 December 1996, and of ongoing preparatory activities carried out by the Greek authorities and REMPEC. The Meeting expressed its appreciation of the Greek initiative.

40. The delegations of Albania and of GSP Libyan AJ thanked the Centre for the training provided, at the national level to their respective countries, as part of the Centre's activities related to assistance in setting up their national systems for preparedness and response.

41. The Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting of the most recent initiatives in the field of training taken within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, undertaken during the Meeting held in Larnaca, Cyprus, 14-16 October 1996, where he presented a proposal for a project which includes an important training component. He indicated that the meeting in Larnaca was of the opinion that REMPEC is the appropriate body for co-ordinating marine pollution related training activities carried out within this project.

42. The Meeting considered this initiative to be a most welcome contribution to the existing training programme of REMPEC and was of the opinion that the Mediterranean coastal States would certainly benefit from such a co-ordinated approach to training. It agreed that REMPEC should co-ordinate training activities provided through the European-Mediterranean Partnership and encouraged the Centre to continue working with the European Commission on this project.

43. Delegations of Algeria, Croatia, Morocco and Turkey requested REMPEC to assist them in organizing national training courses in the forthcoming period. The Meeting took note of these requests and agreed that details of their organization should be negotiated directly between the competent national authorities of the countries concerned and the Director of REMPEC.

44. The Italian delegation informed the Meeting of the intention of Italian authorities, in co-operation with the Italian chemical industry, to host and assist REMPEC in organizing a regional training course on preparedness and response to accidental pollution by hazardous substances other than oil.

45. The Maltese delegate informed the Meeting of its commitment to offer State owned oil spill response equipment, recently acquired by Malta, for use in future regional training activities, which REMPEC might plan to organize in Malta.

46. The Meeting took note of these generous offers and thanked the delegations of Italy and Malta respectively.

47. The Tunisian delegation informed the Meeting of the recent creation of the International Centre of Technology and Environment in Tunis and its role in the area of training as well as its desire that a train-the-trainers course will from part of its future training programme in the area of preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution.

Agenda Item 4.5: Communications and exercises

48. The Director of REMPEC presented the information concerning various communication and full scale simulation exercises organized in the region during the period under review, and summarized the status of communications for use in emergencies.

49. The Meeting took note of the information provided and reiterated the commitment of the coastal States to actively participate in such exercises, which were considered to be an important tool for testing and improving both, national systems for preparedness and response, and existing regional mechanisms for co-operation in cases of emergency. It requested the Centre to continue with the programme of exercises in accordance with the already adopted 1994/97 Medium Term Programme.

50. The Greek delegate informed the Meeting of the results of the Combined Mediterranean-European Communication Exercise - MECOMEX 96 - conducted in May 1996. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

51. The French delegation informed the Meeting of the recent decision taken by the Bonn Agreement member States to abandon the use of telex for reporting pollution incidents in accordance with the POLREP pollution reporting system. The Meeting took note of the information and considered that taking the similar decision by the Contracting Parties to the Emergency Protocol might be premature.

Agenda Item 4.6: Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)

52. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/4/6 describing actions taken by the Centre with regard to facilitating the activation and ensuring the efficiency of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU). He also informed the Meeting of the current balance of the "MAU Revolving Fund" account, established with the funds received by REMPEC from P&I Clubs representing the "Haven" and the "Nassia" respectively, as the reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Centre in connection with the incidents involving these two tankers.

53. The Meeting took note of the information provided and requested the Director to investigate with the MAP Co-ordinating Unit the possibility of permanently transferring yearly to the same account a part of funds allocated to REMPEC for intervention of the MAU in cases of emergency when these are not used, with a view to making these funds instantly available when the MAU is activated and with a view to increase the capital and to accrue due interests.

Agenda Item 4.7: Accidents in the Mediterranean region

54. The Director of REMPEC introduced documents REMPEC/WG.14/4/7 and REMPEC/WG.14/INF.9 describing briefly maritime incidents recorded by the Centre during the period under review and indicating the types of assistance offered in such cases by REMPEC. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

AGENDA ITEM 5: SENSITIVITY MAPPING

55. The Director of REMPEC introduced the subject of sensitivity mapping and informed the Meeting of initiatives taken by REMPEC in this field since the last Meeting of Focal Points. He invited Dr. François Cauneau to present the project, currently being carried out as the Centre's contribution to the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for the region of Sfax in Tunisia.

56. On behalf of the group of consultants (Ecole des Mines de Paris, IFREMER, CEDRE and ENIS) contracted by REMPEC, Dr. François Cauneau, *Responsable Scientifique, Groupe Télédétection & Modélisation, Centre d'Energétique, Ecole des Mines de Paris*, presented the current project. A summary of his presentation is given in **Annex IV** to the present Report.

57. The Meeting took note of the information provided and also noted that the sensitivity mapping methodology developed in relation to this project will be in the future applicable in other areas of the Mediterranean region.

AGENDA ITEM 6: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EMERGENCY PROTOCOL, RECOMMENDATIONS, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS DECISIONS OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES' MEETINGS

58. The Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting of the current situation regarding the implementation of the Emergency Protocol, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines as well as the various decisions of the Meetings of the Contracting Parties, as well as of the status of ratification by the Mediterranean coastal States of relevant international Conventions and their Protocols, for which IMO acts as depositary. An updated status of ratification by the Contracting Parties to the Emergency Protocol of these Conventions appears in **Annex V** to the present Report.

59. The delegate of Croatia informed the Meeting that her country is at present in the process of ratifying OPRC 90 Convention, and that it is expected that this process be completed in the near future.

60. The delegate of Albania informed the Meeting that his country is currently preparing a comprehensive Albanian Maritime Code, which will incorporate requirements of all relevant international Conventions. He also informed the Meeting that the competent Albanian national authorities plan to ratify in the near future 92 Protocols to Civil Liability and Fund Conventions, as well as Load Lines, Tonnage and SOLAS Conventions.

61. The delegation of Tunisia informed the Meeting that the process for the ratification of the 92 Protocols by his country is underway.

62. Following suggestions put forward by several delegations, the Meeting requested REMPEC to include in the future lists of status of ratification of relevant international Conventions, the status of ratification by the Mediterranean coastal States of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Basel Convention, as well as Barcelona Convention and the Protocols thereof. The Meeting reiterated the importance of ratifying the relevant IMO Conventions, and in particular their effective implementation and reinforcement after the ratification.

AGENDA ITEM 7: REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL, SUBREGIONAL AND REGIONAL CAPABILITIES

Agenda Item 7.1: Review of the current state of national systems for preparedness and response

63. The Focal Point Meeting was informed (REMPEC/WG.14/7/1) of the progress made in setting up national systems for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution, and of the assistance provided by REMPEC to the coastal States which requested such assistance.

64. The Meeting took note of the information provided. Delegations from Algeria, Croatia, Greece, Lebanon, Slovenia, Tunisia and Turkey provided additional information on the most recent developments concerning their respective national systems for preparedness and response.

65. The delegation of Syria informed the Meeting of the intention of the competent Syrian authorities to review the draft National Contingency Plan and to establish a pollution control Centre in Banias. He requested technical assistance of REMPEC in achieving these goals and invited the Director of the Centre to pay a visit to Syria as soon as possible. The Director confirmed the Centre's commitment to assist Syria in developing its national system for preparedness and response, and informed the Meeting of his intention to visit Syria next month.

66. The delegation of Syria raised a question with the delegation of the European Community, concerning the fact that in recent years the European Community had supported a project for port reception facilities in two Syrian oil terminals. The Syrian delegation suggested that the European Community continues to support the future completion of the project. The delegation of the European Community suggested, and the Syrian delegation agreed to the suggestion, that this question be discussed at the bilateral level with the competent Syrian authorities and the European Community.

67. The Libyan representative of the oil industry explained that notwithstanding that no major pollution accident has been experienced by the industry, there is concern of the unavailability of spare parts for response equipment due to the U.N sanctions in force.

Agenda Item 7.2: Development of subregional operational agreements for combating major pollution accidents affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts or related interests of neighbouring countries

68. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/7/2 which contained information concerning the on-going activities regarding the development of subregional operational agreements. He informed the Meeting that the Project for the development of the subregional system for combating major marine pollution incidents concerning Cyprus, Egypt and Israel has been finalized as planned, by the end of 1995. A brief information was also provided on the development of other planned subregional agreements.

69. The delegate of Israel expressed his country's appreciation for the assistance provided by the European Commission and REMPEC in launching and executing the project concerning the development of the subregional system for preparedness and response, and emphasized the tremendous increase in preparedness and response related activities at the national level as the consequence of the work carried out in relation to the Subregional Agreement. He informed the Meeting that the Government of Israel in its meeting of 6 September 1996 has decided, by Decision No. 277, to ratify the Subregional Agreement for preparedness and response to major marine pollution accidents between Cyprus, Egypt and Israel. The Government has empowered the Minister of Foreign Affairs to fulfill and operate this Decision.

70. The delegate of Cyprus expressed his country's appreciation to the European Community and to REMPEC for their support and contribution to the success of the project. He informed the Meeting that a draft law concerning the Subregional Agreement has been prepared for approval by the Parliament, and that it will be approved as soon as the text of the Subregional Contingency Plan is translated into Greek.

71. The delegation of the European Community emphasized the active participation in the project by the authorities of the three countries concerned and REMPEC, which significantly facilitated the role of the European Community.

72. The delegate of Lebanon expressed the wish that in the future an operational agreement between his country and Syria should be considered.

73. Delegations of Croatia, Italy and Slovenia confirmed their interests in developing a Subregional Contingency Plan for the Northern Adriatic. The three countries committed themselves to expressing their will officially regarding the assistance of REMPEC in this matter as soon as possible, and preferably within the next three months.

74. Delegations of Morocco and Spain informed the Meeting of signing, by their respective countries, of an agreement concerning Marine Search and Rescue activities, and emphasized a general increase in co-operation between the two countries.

75. The representative of the World Bank briefly described the objectives and components of the regional project financed by the GEF, concerning oil pollution management for the South Western Mediterranean Sea (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). He outlined the progress of the project to date, and informed the Meeting that the national contingency plans have been approved, that response equipment is in the process of being delivered and the training of relevant staff on how to handle oil spills is in an advance stage. He also informed the Meeting that the follow-up and extension of the project has already commenced.

76. The Meeting took note of the information provided and reiterated its support for REMPEC endeavours in the field of development of operational subregional agreements for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution.

Agenda Item 7.3: Co-operation between Governments and the oil and shipping industries concerning preparedness for and response to oil pollution

77. The Director of REMPEC informed the Meeting of initiatives taken by the industry during the period under review and invited the industry representatives to elaborate in more detail their activities related to development of co-operation with governments of the Mediterranean coastal States. On behalf of the coastal States he expressed the appreciation of REMPEC for the continuous support offered to the Centre by ITOFF in the field of training.

78. A number of delegations including Croatia, GSP Libyan AJ, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey indicated that in their respective countries a close co-operation already existed between national authorities responsible for marine pollution preparedness and response and the oil industry.

79. The representative of IPIECA, on behalf of the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG), informed the Meeting of the MOIG activities in the past two years and of difficulties encountered in its work.

80. Following an extensive discussion of the role the oil industry could play in increasing the level of preparedness for major pollution incidents in the Mediterranean, representatives of the oil industry present at the Meeting decided to meet informally on 23 October 1996, in order to discuss and propose concrete measures for the revival of MOIG initiative. Minutes of this informal meeting, as presented to the Meeting on 24 October 1996, are given in **Annex VI** to the present Report.

81. The Meeting agreed that the competent national authorities in charge of marine pollution preparedness and response should assist the oil industry by providing MOIG with indications on possible "oil industry Focal Points" in their respective countries.

Agenda Item 7.4: Review of the current situation concerning the combating capabilities available for assistance in case of a major accident in the Mediterranean region

82. The Technical Expert of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG/14/7/4, containing information concerning State and industry controlled resources available for assistance in case of a major marine pollution accident in the region.

83. The Meeting took note of the information provided and discussed in particular the availability for assistance of private means contracted by States and means owned by the co-operatives created by the oil and shipping industries.

84. As regards companies that are specialized in cleaning operations, a delegation emphasized that when private resources are under contract with a State, another State may avail itself of these either by requesting the State in question to make them available through bilateral co-operation or by contracting the private means directly with the private company.

85. Concerning the possibility of obtaining response equipment from co-operatives created by the shipping and the oil industry (such as FOST in Marseille and OSRL in Southampton), it was emphasized that when a polluting vessel or its oil belongs to a company that is a member of the co-operative, an authority having to respond to a pollution could have access to equipment of the co-operative free of charge, through the shipping company, its P & I Club and the assistance of ITOFF.

86. The Meeting recommended that the description of this important feature, totally different from the use of private oil spill response companies, be described in National Contingency Plans. In order to facilitate this, REMPEC was requested to introduce an explanatory text in the Regional Information System. This text could be prepared with the assistance of ITOFF. The delegation of France declared that they were ready to assist with the drafting.

87. The Meeting welcomed and approved the proposal for REMPEC to prepare guidelines for facilitating the drafting of offers of assistance for real cases of emergency in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PREPAREDNESS FOR AND RESPONSE TO MARITIME RELATED ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN MEDITERRANEAN PORT AREAS AND THEIR APPROACHES

Agenda Item 8.1: Pilot projects related to preparedness and response to accidents in port areas involving hazardous substances

88. The Director of REMPEC introduced document REMPEC/WG.14/8/1 and recalled that the last Meeting of Focal Points was of the view that assistance in developing response capabilities to accidents in ports areas could be achieved in part by targeting specific issues and carrying pilot projects. Following requests by the respective Focal points, the Centre had prepared two projects: one for the development of an emergency plan for the port of Tangier, Morocco and; the other for a risk analysis and associated capacity building for the port of Mersin, Turkey. He also informed the Meeting that funds will be available through one of the European Community funding mechanisms for a pilot project on a port within the context of the new Seveso Directive and UNEP IE's APELL programme. A framework for a project has been prepared and this will most likely focus on the marine handling of Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM).

89. The Director also mentioned that with regard to the adaption of the CAMEO to ports, the Center felt that it would be best to await the new version of the system (cf. agenda item 4.3.2) before further consideration is given to its adaption to ports.

90. Regarding the feasibility study for the setting up of a communication network, the Director noted that REMPEC is following closely the projects financed by the European Community to assess the potential benefits which information technology and electronic data interchange can bring to the flow of information regarding the movement of goods between some of the major Mediterranean port which would include the tracking of hazardous cargo.

91. The delegation of Morocco informed the Meeting that the project for the port of Tangier will be submitted to the European Community for consideration for potential funding. The delegate of Turkey provided information on project for the port of Mersin. She mentioned that the project will be conducted by the Ministry of the Environment in co-ordination with the Mersin port authority and the port operating authority. She stated that the Ministry of Environment has already allocated monies for a 4 years period starting in 1996 but was aware that external funding would be required to initiate and complete the project. She noted that Turkey will be co-operating with REMPEC to identify potential donors to finance the project. She augured that this project will be a good example on how to carry out a risk assessment and develop capacity building in other Turkish ports as well as Mediterranean ports.

92. The Meeting took note of the information provided.

Agenda Item 8.2: GESAMP Working Group on the evaluation of harmful substances

93. The Chemical Expert introduced REMPEC/WG.14/8/2 which described the work of the GESAMP Working Group on the Evaluation of Harmful Substances carried by Ships (EHS Working Group). He explained that the Centre was of the opinion that the work carried out by GESAMP and in particular that which is carried out by the EHS Working Group could be of direct benefit to the competent authorities in charge of preparedness and response. The Chemical Expert introduced REMPEC/WG.14/INF.12 on behalf of the IMO's Technical Secretary of GESAMP, REMPEC/WG.14/INF.13 and REMPEC/WG.14/INF.14 which are examples of outputs emanating from the work of the EHS Working Group. REMPEC/WG.14/INF.15 and the REMPEC/WG.14/INF.16 were provided as examples of work originating from GESAMP which can enhance the current knowledge base of preparedness and response personnel in the Mediterranean on marine pollution issue and other related topics.

94. The Meeting appreciated the information given and asked to be kept informed of the on-going activities of the Working Group.

Agenda Item 8.3: Co-operation with the chemical industry

95. The Director of REMPEC introduced REMPEC/WG.14/8/3 whose scope was to serve as a catalyst for an exchange of view on the subject of co-operation between government and the chemical industry. He recalled that the last Meeting of Focal Points was of the opinion that co-operation between the chemical industry and government was to be encouraged. The Director highlighted the fact that the chemical industry, in particular the European chemical industry was already participating to activities carried out by REMPEC within the framework of the Emergency Protocol.

96. The representative from CEFIC gave an account of the initiatives taken by the European chemical industry in the area of marine transport safety. He outlined the Chemical Distribution Initiative (CDI) inspection scheme set up by chemical companies to have vessels carrying bulk chemicals to be inspected on a yearly basis and that this scheme is being extended to bulk storage terminals. The representative explained that in order to facilitate emergency response across boundaries, the ICE Emergency programme was initiated in 1991 and that REMPEC became a member of this scheme last year. This step is beneficial to both parties since the chemical industry has a reliable contact for information whereas REMPEC can obtain expert product advice from the industry. He suggested to the Meeting that the development of regular simulation communication exercises for the exchange of information such as the one carried out in December 1995 between industry's ICE Centres and REMPEC on behalf of its Focal Points could instill confidence and a better understanding of both parties. He concluded that in the future one might envisage co-operation in the field of risk assessment in port areas or establishing integrated approach in emergency procedures.

AGENDA ITEM 9: OPRC CONVENTION AND THE OPRC WORKING GROUP

97. Delegations noted the information provided by the representative of IMO and the Director of REMPEC regarding the work done by the OPRC group at IMO and on the progress of the preparation of a protocol intended to extend the Convention to cover hazardous substances other than oil. Their attention was drawn to the fact that few developing countries took part in the work being done by the group whereas the work is intended to help developing countries. Indeed, the only Mediterranean countries that took part in the last meeting were Spain, France, Greece and Italy.

AGENDA ITEM 10: LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION FOR MARINE POLLUTION DAMAGE

98. Delegations noted the information presented on the improvement of compensation for pollution victim's after oil spills from tankers according to the 1992 Protocols to the CLC Convention of 1969 and to the Fund Convention of 1971 (document WG/14/10) that came into force on 30 May 1996.

99. The delegate of Malta raised the question of compensation for pollution damage when the specific vessel could not be identified.

100. In response to this question, the French delegation mentioned the implementation by Germany of a new provision of the Fund Convention introduced by the 1992 Protocol. During summer 1996 many beaches were polluted but no vessel was identified as having polluted them. However, the samples taken by showed that the pollutant could only have come from a tanker in which case Germany can be compensated by the IOPC Fund which would not have been possible prior to the coming into force of the 1992 Protocol.

101. The attention of the Meeting was drawn to the fact that the voluntary funds, TOVALOP and CRISTAL, will be discontinued as from February 1997. Compensation available for States which did not yet ratify the 1992 Protocols would then be limited to the amounts in the 1969 CLC and 1971 FUND Convention or even lower for States which are not yet Party to these Conventions.

102. The Meeting took note of the adoption, on 2 May 1996, of the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS Convention) which deals with compensation to victims of accidents involving HNS, such as chemicals.

103. The attention of the Meeting was also drawn to the adoption, at the same date, of a Protocol amending the 1976 Convention on the Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims (LLMC). The Convention deals with claims for loss of life or personal injury and property claims such as damage to other ships, property or harbour works. Since this Protocol will probably enter into force before the HNS Convention, it will allow, in the meanwhile, an improvement in compensation for victims of pollution accidents by hazardous and noxious substances for States which have ratified this new Protocol.

AGENDA ITEM 11: REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO THE POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM SEA-BASED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE NEW CONTEXT OF MAP PHASE II

104. The Director of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG.14/11 which addressed the subject of prevention and response to marine pollution from a global perspective as well as the main components of prevention and preparedness policies. The Director recalled the present situation regarding regional co-operation in these fields.

105. As regards the mandate of the Meeting of Focal Points, attention was drawn to the report of the Extraordinary Meeting of Contracting Parties held in Montpellier in July 1996: the IMO observer at that meeting had made a number of proposals on the future role of REMPEC and the Extraordinary Meeting had decided that these proposals should be presented for discussion at the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points.

106. The Focal Points noted that MAP Phase II included consideration for the prevention of pollution by ships which should be translated into actions according to a strategy for regional co-operation on the matter.

107. During the exchange of views, a number of items were mentioned and discussed. The points raised were:

- combating spills in many countries is shared between several Ministries (Environment, Transport, Interior etc.) and the extension of the role of REMPEC in the prevention of accidents would mean an increased involvement of the Ministries responsible for maritime transport within the activities of MAP;
- the risk of accidental pollution is often increased by the lack of appropriate implementation of International Conventions;
- Coastal States may be the victims of accidents or violations of international Conventions such as for example illegal discharges may pollute beaches and cleaning them might be costly with often very little possibility to get compensation;

- safety of navigation plays a pivotal role in the prevention of maritime casualties and the improvement of traffic navigation schemes, the operation of VTS and the implementation of other navigation measures contribute to the protection of the marine environment;
- there should be no specific safety requirement for ships plying the Mediterranean Sea over and above those agreed upon under the IMO *aegis*, since shipping is a world-wide activity and standards have to be global; this, however should not prevent concerted action on the side of Mediterranean States at the IMO whenever they have common interests to forward to the IMO;
- reception facilities are an important feature in order to avoid illegal discharges but guidance is necessary for the disposal of wastes when they have been received in a port.

108. As regards the IMO Conventions, attention was drawn to the necessity to re-introduce the Intervention Convention 69/73, an essential feature, as it allows a Coastal State to intervene beyond its territorial sea in case of a danger of pollution.

109. After the general discussion, agreement was unanimously reached on the following points:

- a) REMPEC had proven its efficiency and, since it was necessary to avoid new structures within MAP, REMPEC should be tasked with the new activities in the field of prevention decided by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Barcelona in 1995;
- b) this should be materialized in a document to be presented to the Contracting Parties for approval;

110. It was then decided to establish a small Working Group which would draft such a document and report to the Meeting (cf. paragraphs 118-120 of the report).

AGENDA ITEM 12: NEED FOR THE REVISION OF THE EMERGENCY PROTOCOL WITHIN THE NEW CONTEXT OF THE MAP PHASE II

111. The Director of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG.14/12 that considered on the one hand the extension of the Protocol to the field of the prevention of pollution by ships, and on the other, the streamlining of the present Protocol. It was emphasized that the Emergency Protocol had been established under article 9 of the Barcelona Convention. If activities related to the prevention of pollution by ships are to be carried out under article 6 of the Convention, this had to be reflected in a Protocol, in this case by amending the Emergency Protocol.

112. Some concern was expressed as to the extent of the amendments to be introduced, taking into account for instance the position of some Mediterranean States with regard to certain international instruments or the risk of interfering with E.C. directives and regulations.

113. The Meeting was of the opinion that, beyond the extension to the field of the prevention of pollution by ships, it was premature to decide on the amendments to be included.

114. The Meeting unanimously considered it necessary to revise the Protocol, since it was felt essential to build the proposed regional strategy for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships on a sound legal basis (cf. paragraphs 118-120 of the report). This should be done keeping in mind the above restrictions as regards the scope of the revision.

115. The Meeting discussed the possible calendar for the revision once the Contracting Parties have decided it during their Meeting of September 1997. To reduce costs, it would be preferable that the adoption of the amendments be linked with the Contracting Parties meeting in 1999 and that one of the necessary experts meeting be linked with the 1998 meeting of Focal Points, which should be preferably scheduled during the first quarter of the year.

116. To reduce the costs further, France said that it was ready to provide consultancy free of charge. This was accepted by the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ROLE AND FUNCTION OF REMPEC IN THE NEW CONTEXT OF THE MAP PHASE II

117. The Meeting noted the request by the Director for guidance as regards the description of the role and functions of REMPEC within the new context of MAP Phase II. It acknowledged that the conclusions it had reached under agenda item 11 meant an extension of the role and function of REMPEC as described in Annex to Resolution 7 adopted in 1976 and amended in 1989. The Meeting therefore requested the Director to prepare a draft revision of this Annex and to present it for approval by the Contracting Parties together with the strategy on the prevention of pollution by ships.

Adoption of a draft strategy and a draft Resolution for adoption by Contracting Parties (relevant to the Agenda Items 11 to 13)

118. The Chairman of the Working Group established under agenda item 11, Mr. F. Levy from the delegation of France, reported on the work of the group. He stated that the other members of the Working Group were from delegations of Israel, Morocco and Tunisia and the Director of REMPEC. The Working Group had prepared a document which described the strategy as regards to prevention of pollution from ships and a draft Resolution for the Contracting Parties Meeting.

119. During the discussion, one delegation expressed its regrets that the text of the documents were related only to ships while there were many other sources of pollution of the sea. The Focal Points considered that the text of the documents was to be limited to ships because, in their view, other decisions of Contracting Parties or the Co-ordination Unit would address the prevention of pollution from other sea-based activities, in particular offshore activities.

120. The Meeting amended the proposals from the Working Group and accepted the proposals as amended. It is therefore proposed that the Contracting Parties:

- approve the regional strategy as regards the prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships, at **Annex VII**;
- adopted the resolution linked to this strategy, at **Annex VII**;
- requested the Co-ordinating Unit to avail REMPEC with the resources it would need to play its extended role both from the MAP's budget and from other sources;
- request the 1998 Meeting of the REMPEC's Focal Points to examine the draft amendments to the Emergency Protocol.

AGENDA ITEM 14: MEDIUM TERM PROGRAMME 1998-2003 AND DECISIONS AND GUIDANCE FOR 1998/1999 PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

121. The Director of REMPEC presented document REMPEC/WG.14/14 containing an indication of a draft medium term programme for activities in the field of prevention and response to pollution of the marine environment by sea-based activities and a draft programme for the 1998-1999 biennium which is the continuation of the previous medium term programme.

122. The Meeting noted with satisfaction the projects' outlines presented by the Director of REMPEC at the meeting held in Cyprus from 14 to 16 October 1996 within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. The Meeting approved the proposals and asked REMPEC to finalize the documents that are to be presented to the European Commission for them to be taken into account and to secure funding for them. The Meeting expressed the wish that maritime administrations of participating countries, when approached by REMPEC's Focal Points would send statements of interest to REMPEC that would be forwarded with the file. The two projects presented by REMPEC are the following:

- 1) Preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution which includes three main components:
 - a) a comprehensive regional training programme;
 - b) the development of environmental sensitivity maps for spill response (regional perspective);
 - c) a study on salvage and towing capacity in the Mediterranean region which can be used in case of emergency.

- 2) Port reception facilities for collecting ship-generated garbage, bilge waters and oily residues which will have two main objectives:
 - a) studying the financial aspect of operating port reception facilities for garbage, bilge waters and oily residues with the view to harmonizing practices on this issue and too agree on a regional approach;
 - b) studying (from a regional perspective) the question of the disposal, treatment or recycling of garbage and oily residues collected taking into account other experiences in the field; pilot and demonstration projects should be conducted.

123. The Meeting also noted the projects presented by IMO at the same meeting in Cyprus. It emphasised how important they were for preventing pollution in the Mediterranean and wished that the Commission take them into account. The Meeting also asked maritime administrations of participating countries to send statements of interest to the Secretary General of IMO. The projects presented by IMO are the following:

- 1) Assessment of maritime safety administrations and their upgrading (port and flag state control functions).
- 2) Development and strengthening of flag state capacity for the implementation of the international safety management code (ISM Code).
- 3) Development and strengthening of flag state capability for the efficiency of the Mediterranean maritime administrations for the implementation of the STCW 1995.

124. The Meeting examined Annex II of document REMPEC/WG.14/14 regarding the 1998-1999 programme. It noted that the proposals were the continuation of the 1996-1997 programme. The Focal Points expressed the wish to start reflecting on changes in REMPEC's priorities and activities before and during the next meeting of Focal Points in 1998. They also asked that the 1998-1999 programme includes activities regarding the strategy on pollution prevention in the spirit of the draft Resolution presented by them to the Contracting Parties (cf. **Annex VII**). Bearing in mind these remarks, the meeting approved the programme in **Annex VIII**. The Meeting emphasised that the Director be given a wide margin of appraisal for implementing the programme as a function of the funding available for some of the activities that are part of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

125. The Meeting noted the medium term programme up to the year 2003 that was included, for information purposes only, in Annex 1 of document REMPEC/WG.14/14.

126. The Focal Points examined how REMPEC should fulfill its functions and deplored that their reiterated request for an administrative and financial professional officer had not been taken into account. They therefore adopted the following Resolution :

"REMPEC Focal Points, noting the extent of the tasks to be carried out by the Centre, request forcefully that the Coordinator of the Action Plan include on the REMPEC budget a position for an administrative and financial professional without reducing the current resources of the Centre."

AGENDA ITEM 15: CO-OPERATION AND CO-ORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMMES (E.C., WORLD BANK, UNDP/EURO-MED, METAP, GEF)

127. The World Bank representative informed the Meeting of the progress in preparing a project regarding a management system for oil pollution in the South-West Mediterranean, involving Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia. He informed the Meeting that the scope of the project was to build on what has been already achieved by the project described under Agenda Item 7.2 and to extend the project to two countries on the South Mediterranean coast, Libya and Egypt. The representative of the World Bank explained that the Steering Committee will meet in Tunisia, 1-2 November 1996 to finalize the terms of reference for the preparation study and the short list of consultants. He underlined that this study is financed by the GEF.

128. The delegate of Malta raised a question concerning the relationship of these projects with the Protocol on emergency situations and the involvement of REMPEC. The Director of REMPEC replied that the Centre was informed of them but not involved in them. Furthermore, he emphasized strongly that international co-operation for preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution emergencies required coordinated and coherent action.

129. The delegate of the European Community stated that the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership had clearly decided to fully co-operate with MAP structures for regional environmental related issues. The policy of the European Community is to avoid redundancy, ensure that projects are coherent and that the programmes are well coordinated. Furthermore, the European Community is opposed to creating new structures and prefers to use existing ones.

130. The delegate of the European Community also reported very briefly on the METAP meeting which was held in Cairo from 15-16 October 1996. He mentioned that two units had been created in Cairo to prepare projects and develop national capacities within the framework of METAP.

AGENDA ITEM 16: OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda Item 16.1: Meteorological support to marine pollution emergency response operations on the high seas (WMO-MPERSS)

131. The representative from WMO presented document REMPEC/WG.14/16/1 and REMPEC/WG.14/16/Add.1 which gave an update on the implementation of the WMO's Marine Pollution Emergency Response System (MPERSS) and the work undertaken to update the WMO's Handbook on Marine Meteorological Services. Regarding the MPERSS, the WMO representative explained that to activate the system in a more dynamic way, WMO is planning a workshop on MPERSS in the 1998-1999 biennium and would appreciate to receive input from REMPEC due to its experience with marine emergency response. Regarding the updating of the Handbook, the WMO representative invited the Focal Points for whom there was no information to request their appropriate national authorities to provide updated information to the WMO Secretariat with the final objective of updating and completing also the information available in the REMPEC directory.

132. The Meeting took note of the information provided. The delegations from Albania, Croatia and Slovenia offered their assistance in providing the requested information to WMO for the updating of the Handbook.

Agenda Item 16.2: Other Questions

133. The delegation of France asked the Focal Points for a list of names who could attend the "INFOPOL" course on marine pollution and an advanced course on port management which were proposed to the European Community for financing by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

134. One delegation drew the attention of the Meeting to the difficulties that may arise if only one participant is invited to the Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points due to the sharing of REMPEC's related activities between several Ministries. The Meeting recognized that a solution had to be found to these difficulties and invited REMPEC to examine how two participants could be financially supported to attend subsequent Focal Points' meetings as in each country the Governmental representative would choose the representatives to be sent to meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 17: APPROVAL OF THE REPORT

135. The Meeting adopted the present text together with its annexes, as the Report of the Meeting on 26 October 1996.

AGENDA ITEM 18: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

136. During the closing addresses, many delegations thanked Mr. Jean-François Levy (France) who was attending his last Meeting as official Focal Point, for the wisdom, enthusiasm and professional experience, he had brought to the discussions during the present and previous meetings of REMPEC's Focal Points.

137. Many delegations expressed their appreciation to the Director of REMPEC and his staff for the organization and handling of the Meeting which contributed to the success of the Meeting.

138. The Chairman, Mr. Darcis, closed the Meeting at 13.00 on Saturday, 26 October 1996.

ANNEX(E) I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS****ALBANIA / ALBANIE****Representative****HEBA Andrea**

Specialist

Directorate of Maritime Transport & Ports

Ministry of Industry, Transport & Trade

Rruga Toptani Nr. 4

Tirana.

Tel: +355 42 258 62

Tlx: -

Fax: +355 42 346 54 / 346 47

ALGERIA / ALGERIE**Representative****BOUZOUATA Said**

Sous Directeur des Opérations

Direction Générale de la Protection Civile

Ministère de l'Intérieur, des Collectivités Locales et de l' Environnement

Cite des Fonctionnaires de la Protection Civile

Bordj -El- Bahri

35000 - Bouoierdés.

Tel: +213 (2) 68 45 05

Tlx: 67703 DGPC DZ

Fax: +213 (2) 66 43 78

CROATIA / CROATIE**Representative****MASTROVIC Margita**

Senior Adviser

State Directorate for Environment

Office for the Adriatic

Uzarska ul. 2/1

51000 Rijeka.

Tel: +385 (51) 213 499

Tlx: -

Fax: +385 (51) 214 324

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Representative

LOIZIDES Loizos

Fisheries Officer

Department of Fisheries

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment

Aeolou 13

Nicosia.

Tel: +357 (2) 30 35 76

Tlx: 4660 MINAGRI CY

Fax: +357 (2) 36 59 55

EGYPT / EGYPTÉ

Representative

YASSIN Mohamed Aly

Chairman of Port & Lighthouses Administration

Gate No 1, Ras el-Tin

Alexandria.

Tel: +20 (3) 483 84 12

Tlx: 54407

Fax: +20 (3) 483 56 33

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY / COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE

Representative

DICORRADO Tanino

Coordinator for the Mediterranean

European Commission

Directorate General for Environment,

Nuclear Safety & Civil Protection

200 rue de la Loi

B-1049 Brussels.

Tel: +32 (2) 296 9147

Tlx: 21877 COMEU B

Fax: +32 (2) 299 4123

BELLINI Mauro

European Commission (EC)

Civil Protection Unit (DG XI/C/4)

200 Rue de la Loi

B-1049 Brussels.

Tel: +32 (2) 299 2249

Tlx: 21877 COMEU B

Fax: +32 (2) 299 03 14

FRANCE

Representative

LEVY Jean-Francois

Ingénieur Général des Ponts et Chaussées
Secrétariat Général de la Mer
16 Boulevard Raspail
75007 Paris.

Tel: +33 (-) 142 84 08 76

Tlx: -

Fax: +33 (-) 142 84 07 90

GUERQUIN Patrick

Commissaire Général de la Marine
Marine Nationale
Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée
Division Action De l'Etat en Mer
BP 912
83800 Toulon Naval, Toulon.

Tel: +33 (-) 494 02 03 75

Tlx: -

Fax: +33 (-) 494 02 13 63

WEIZMANN Michel

Chef Section Affaires Internationales
Direction des Ports et de la Navigation Maritimes
Ministère de l'Équipement, des Transports et du Tourisme
34 rue de la Fédération
75015 Paris.

Tel: +331 40 81 71 37

Tlx: -

Fax: +331 40 81 71 32

GIRIN Michel

Directeur
CEDRE
B.P. 72
29280 Plouzané.

Tel: +332 98 49 12 66

Tlx: 940145 F

Fax: +332 98 49 64 46

Participant from Oil Industry / Oil Sector

TRAMIER Bernard

Directeur Environnement et Sécurité
ELF Aquitaine
Tour ELF Cedex 45
92078 Paris La Défense.

Tel: +331 47 44 21 72

Tlx: -

Fax: +331 47 44 25 90

GREECE / GRECE

Representative

SYRIGOS Andreas

Director
Marine Environment Protection Division
Ministry of Mercantile Marine
109 Ipsilantou Street
18532 Piraeus.

Tel: +30 (1) 422 04 41

Tlx: 212239 YEN GR

Fax: +30 (1) 422 04 41

ISRAEL

Representative

ADLER Eliik

Head
Marine and Coastal Environment Division
Ministry of the Environment
Technion City
32000 Haifa.

Tel: +972 (4) 82 31 274/8/81

Tlx: -

Fax: +972 (4) 82 31 336

ITALY / ITALIE

Representative

VALENTINI Francesco

Director of Division 2 - ICDM
Ispettorato Centrale per la Difesa Del Mare
Ministero dell Ambiente
Viale dell Arte, 16
00144 Roma.

Tel: +39 (6) 59 08 45 19

Tlx: 620302 MINAMBI I

Fax: +39 (6) 59 08 41 11

PATRINO Roberto

Dipartimento Protezione Civile
Comando Generale del Corpo delle Capitanerie di Porto
Ministero dei Trasporti e della Navigazione
Viale dell'Arte 16
I 00144 Roma.

Tel: +39 (6) 59 23 569
Tlx: -
Fax: +39 (6) 59 22 737

Participant from oil Industry / Oil Sector

GIORDANO Giuseppe

Safety Quality Assurance & Environmental Protection
ENTE Nazionale Idrocarburi (ENI)
P.le E. Mattei,
I 00144 Roma.

Tel: +39 (6) 5982 56 77
Tlx: 610082 ENIDRO I
Fax: +39 (6) 5982 56 44

PAVONE Mario

Unione Petrolifera
Via del Giorgione 129
00147 Roma.

Tel: +39 (6) 59602939
Tlx: 626568 UNIPETRI
Fax: +39 (6) 59602924

LEBANON / LIBAN

Representative

KOUYOUMJIAN Hratch

Director
National Centre for Marine Sciences
National Council for Scientific Research
Batroun.

Tel: +961 (6) 741 583/4
Tlx: -
Fax: +961 (6) 741 581 or +961 (1) 822 639

LIBYA / LIBYE

Representative

FARES Bashir Mohamed

Director General
Technical Centre for Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 3628
Tripoli.

Tel: +218 (21) 444 84 52
Tlx: 20138 TCEP LY
Fax: +218 (21) 333 80 98

Participant from Oil Industry / Oil Sector

FARHAT Abdul Monaim

Operations Division Manager
Agip Oil Co.
Dahra Buidling
P.O. Box 346
Tripoli.

Tel: +218 (21) 444 42 43
Tlx: -
Fax: +218 (21) 444 62 93

ABOUZRIBA Said

Marine Superintendent.
Veba Oil Operations
P.O. Box 404
Tripoli.

Tel: +218 (21) 333 00 81 Ext 4116
Tlx: -
Fax: +218 (21) 333 00 81

ZARTI MOHAMMED

Marine Controller
Azzawia Oil Refinery
Tripoli.

Tel: +218 (21) 60 53 90 - 93
Tlx: -
Fax: +218 (21) 60 53 89

FATAISY Saleh

Operations Superintendent
Zuetina Oil Company
P.O. Box 2134
Tripoli.

Tel: +218 (21) 33 383 395
Tlx: -
Fax: -

MALTA / MALTE

Representative

MICALLEF Lawrence

Head
Pollution Control Co-ordinating Unit
Ministry of Environment
Starkey Annex
Vittoriosa.

Tel: +356 (-) 67 80 34 or 67 63 58
Tlx: -
Fax: +356 (-) 66 01 08

SAVIOUR Borg

Head
Multilateral Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palazzo Parisio
Merchant Street, Valletta.

Tel: +356 (-) 24 21 91/23 78 33
Tlx: -
Fax: +356 (-) 23 78 22/23 44 94

MONACO

Representative

DARCIS Jean-Paul

Directeur des Ports
Service de la Marine
7 av. J.F. Kennedy
MC 98000 Monaco.

Tel: +377 (-) 93 15 86 78
Tlx: 489035
Fax: +377 (-) 93 15 37 15

MOROCCO / MAROC

Representative

DAHOU Mohammed

Chef de Service Plan d'Urgence
Ministère de l'Environnement
26 rue de Sebou
Agdal, Rabat.

Tel: +212 (7) 68 15 00
Tlx: -
Fax: +212 (7) 76 95 78

KEFFAOUI Khadija

Chef de Service de la Prevention de la Pollution Marine
Ministère des Pêches Maritimes et de la Marine Marchande
Direction de la Marine Marchande
Bd. Félix Houphouet Boigny
Casablanca.

Tel: +212 (2) 22 19 31

Tlx: 24613 MARIMARM

Fax: +212 (2) 27 33 40

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Representative

KRESNIK Ivo

Senior Advisor
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
Vojkova 1a
1000 Ljubljana,P.B. 2608

Tel: +386 (61) 178 4532

Tlx:

Fax: +386 (61) 178 4611

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Representative

MOLINERO GUTIERREZ Antonio

Subdirección General de Trafico, Seguridad y Contaminación Marítima
Dirección General de la Marina Mercante
c/Ruiz de Alarcón, 1
28071 Madrid.

Tel: +34 (1) 597 92 69/70

Tlx: 27298 MAMER E

Fax: +34 (1) 597 92 87

CAL BAUDOT Carlos

Controler "Centro Nacional de Coordinación de Salvamento" (CNCS)
Sociedad Estatal de Salvamento y Seguridad Maritima
Avda. de Portugal, 81
28011 Madrid.

Tel: +34 (1) 596 49 88

Tlx: 41210 SAMAD E

Fax: +34 (1) 335 76 22

SYRIA / SYRIE

Representative

DAYOUB Ali

Head of Marine Anti-pollution Department
General Directorate of Ports
Ministry of Transport
P.O. 505, Ben Bella Street
Lattakia.

Tel: +963 (41) 47 33 333 or 47 38 76
Tlx: 451216 MWANI SY
Fax: +963 (41) 47 58 05

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Representative

SMAOUI Malek

Officier Principal
Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Aménagement du Territoire
Centre Urbain Nord
Bâtiment ICF
Ariana 2080

Tel: +216 (1) 70 40 00
Tlx: 12225 MEAT TN
Fax: +216 (1) 70 24 31

FREJ Moncef

Chef du Service des Ports
Direction Générale de la Marine Marchande
24 avenue de la République
1001 Tunis.

Tel: +216 (1) 336 442
Tlx: 15131 MARMAR TUN
Fax: +216 (1) 354 244

DAOUD Mongi

Ministère de l'Industrie
Direction Générale de l'Energie
17 av. Khereddine Pacha
Tunis.

Tel: +216 (1) 287280 or 780370
Tlx:
Fax: +216 (1) 787804

TURKEY / TURQUIE

Representative

KUCUKAY Ufuk

Hydrogeology engineer
Ministry of Environment
Eskisehir Yolu, 8. Km
06100 Ankara.

Tel: +90 (312) 287 99 63
Tlx: -
Fax: +90 (312) 285 58 75

ONUR Saniye

Head
Foreign Relations Department
Prime Ministry - Undersecretariat of Maritime Affairs
Anit Caddesi No.8
Tandogan, Ankara.

Tel: +90 (312) 212 87 90
Tlx: -
Fax: +90 (312) 212 54 79

ASLAN Salih

Commander
Turkish Coast Guard
Ministry of Interior
Karanfil Sokak, 64
06640 Bakanliklar
Ankara.

Tel: +90 (312) 417 50 50
Tlx: 46201 SGKA TR
Fax: +90 (312) 417 28 45

Participant from Oil Industry / Oil Sector

TOKGÖZ Bülent

Head of Environmental Protection Group
Turkish Petroleum Corporation
Mustafa Kemal Mah. 2 Cad. No. 86
Ankara.

Tel: +90 (312) 286 91 00 or 287 74 18
Tlx: -
Fax: +90 (312) 286 90 00 / 01

ALPAY Vijdan

Expert
Pipelines and Oil Transportation Company
Gunes Sok. No. 11 Guvenevler
BOTAS
06690 Ankara.

Tel: +90 (312) 467 01 50/282

Tlx: 46392 BRHT TR

Fax: +90 (312) 428 26 46

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTANTS DES ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
ORGANISATION MARITIME INTERNATIONALE (OMI)

OKAMURA Bin

Deputy Director
Marine Environment Division
4 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7SR
ENGLAND.

Tel: +44 (71) 735 7611

Tlx: 23588 IMOLDN G

Fax: +44 (71) 587 3210

UNEP/CO-ORDINATIONG UNIT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
PNUE/UNITE DE COORDINATION DU PLAN D'ACTION LA POUR LA MEDITERRANEAN (PAM)

CIVILI Francesco-Saverio

First Officer (Marine Scientist)
Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan
P.O. Box 18091
Vassileos Konstantinou 48
11610 Athens.

Tel: +30 (1) 725 31 90-5

Tlx: 222564 MEDU GR

Fax: +30 (1) 725 31 96-7

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME - INDUSTRY & ENVIRONMENT (UNEP IE)
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT - INDUSTRIE ET ENVIRONNEMENT
(UNEP IE)

STEVENS Janet

UNEP IE

Tour Mirabeau

39-43 Quai André-Citroen

75739 Paris

FRANCE.

Tel: +33 (1) 44 37 14 31 (direct)

+33 (1) 44 37 14 50 (standard)

Tlx:

Fax: +33 (1) 44 37 14 74

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION / ORGANISATION METEOROLOGIQUE MONDIALE

GUZMAN Fernando

Scientific Officer

Ocean Affairs Division

C. Postale 2300

1211 Geneva 2

SWITZERLAND.

Tel: +41 (22) 730 81 11

Tlx: 414199 OMM CH

Fax: +41 (22) 733 0242

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTANTS DES ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTAUX

THE WORLD BANK GROUP

BEN SLIMAN Fathi

Sr. Financial Analyst

Private Sector Development, Finance and Infrastructure

Maghreb and Iran Department

The World Bank

1818H Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20433

U.S.A.

Tel: +1 (202) 473 2439

Tlx: MCI 248423

Fax: +1 (202) 477 1993

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES**OBSERVERS / OBSERVATEURS****THE INTERNATIONAL TANKERS OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION (ITOPF)****MOLLER Torsten Henrik**

Staple Hall
87-90 Houndsditch
London EC3A 7AX
ENGLAND.

Tel: +44 (171) 621 1255
Tlx: 887514 TOVLOP G
Fax: +44 (171) 621 1783

THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INDUSTRY CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (IPIECA)**CRIPPS Jim**

2nd. Floor, Monmouth House
87-93 Westbourne Grove
London W2 4UL
ENGLAND.

Tel: +44 (171) 221 2026
Tlx: -
Fax: +44 (171) 229 4948

BALENA Alfredo (MOIG)

Oil Spill Response Manager
ESSO Italiana
Viale Castello della Magliana 25
00144 Roma.

Tel: +39 (6) 5995 2372
Tlx: -
Fax: +39 (6) 5995 2411

THE OIL INDUSTRY INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION FORUM (E & P FORUM)**READ A. D.**

Deputy Executive Secretary
E & P FORUM
25/28 Oil Burlington Street
London W1X 1LB.

Tel: +44 (171) 437 62 91
Tlx: -
Fax: +44 (171) 434 3721

CONSIGLIO Marco

AGIP

San Donato

20097 Milanese

Milano.

Tel: +39 (2) 520 61992

Tlx: 310246 - ENI

Fax: +39 (2) 520 61880

EUROPEAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CEPIC)

CONSEIL EUROPEEN DE L'INDUSTRIE CHIMIQUE (CIFEC)

JONCKHEERE Filip

Technical Affairs Department

European Chemical Industry Council (CEPIC)

Av. E. Van Nieuwenhuysse 4, Bte 1

B-1160 Brussels.

Tel: +32 (2) 676 72 66

Tlx: 62444

Fax: +32 (2) 676 73 32

CONSULTANTS/CONSULTANTS

CAUNEAU François

Ecole des Mines de Paris

Group Télédétection & Modélisation

Rue Claude Daunesse,

Sophia Antipolis - Les Lucioles

B.P. n° 207.

F-06904 Sophia Antipolis Cedex.

Tel: +33 (4) 93 95 75 75

Tlx: -

Fax: +33 (4) 93 95 75 35

DAVERIO Laurent

Ecole des Mines de Paris

Centre de Recherche en Informatique

35 rue Saint-Honoré

F-77305 Fontainebleau Cedex.

Tel: +33 (1) 64 69 48 37

Tlx: -

Fax: +33 (1) 64 69 48 47

REMPEC SECRETARIAT / SECRETARIAT DU REMPEC

REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)
CENTRE REGIONAL MEDITERRANEEN POUR L'INTERVENTION D'URGENCE CONTRE LA POLLUTION MARINE ACCIDENTELLE

SAINLOS Jean Claude
Director

DOMOVIC Darko
Technical Expert

MICALLEF Stefan
Chemical Expert

BONAVIA Josephine
Secretary to Head of Office/Administrative Assistant

STELLINI Doreen
Clerk/Secretary

BAKOS Maria
Clerk/Secretary

ZERAFA Anthony
Caretaker/Document Reproducer

CONFERENCE INTERPETERS / INTERPRETE DE CONFERENCE

Members of AICC / Membres de l'AICC

TESTOT-FERRY Irene
Interpreter

THOMAS Julian
Interpreter

SCOTT-CARROL Kevin
Interpreter

ANNEX II**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the implementation of REMPEC's Programme of Activities
 - 4.1 Progress Report
 - 4.2 Administration of the Centre
 - 4.3 Regional Information System
 - 4.3.1 Directories, lists, inventories, catalogue
 - 4.3.2 Data banks, simulation models and decision support system
 - 4.3.3 Operational guides and technical documents
 - 4.4 Training
 - 4.5 Communications and exercises
 - 4.6 Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)
 - 4.7 Accidents in the Mediterranean region
5. Sensitivity mapping
6. Implementation of the Emergency Protocol, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines as well as the various decisions of the Contracting Parties' Meetings
7. Review of the current situation concerning the development of national, sub-regional and regional capabilities
 - 7.1 Review of the current state of national systems for preparedness and response
 - 7.2 Development of sub-regional operational agreements for combating major marine pollution accidents affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts or related interests of neighbouring countries
 - 7.3 Co-operation between governments and the oil and shipping industries concerning preparedness for and response to oil pollution
 - 7.4 Review of the current situation concerning the combating capabilities available for assistance in case of a major accident in the Mediterranean region.
8. Preparedness for and response to maritime related accidents involving hazardous substances in Mediterranean port areas and their approaches
 - 8.1 Pilot projects related to preparedness and response to accidents in port areas involving hazardous substances
 - 8.2 GESAMP Working Group on the evaluation of harmful substances

8.3 Co-operation with the chemical industry

9. OPRC Convention and OPRC Working Group

10. Liability and compensation for marine pollution damage

11. Regional co-operation for prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities within the new context of MAP Phase II

12. Need for the revision of the Emergency Protocol within the new context of the MAP Phase II

13. Role and function of REMPEC in the new context of the MAP phase II

14. Medium term programme 1998-2003 and decisions and guidance for 1998/1999 programme and budget

15. Co-operation and co-ordination with other International Organizations and programmes (E.C., World Bank, UNDP/Euro-Med, METAP, GEF)

16. Other business

16.1 Meteorological support to marine pollution emergency response operations on the high sea (WMO-MPERSS)

16.2 Other questions

17. Approval of the Report

18. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTSAgenda

REMPEC/WG.14/3/1	Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.14/3/2	Annotated Provisional Agenda
REMPEC/WG.14/3/3	Draft Timetable

Review of the Implementation of REMPEC's Programme 1995-1996

REMPEC/WG.14/4/1	Progress Report (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/2	Administration of the Centre (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/1	Directories, Lists, Inventories and Catalogue (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/2	Data Banks, Simulation Models and Decision-Support System (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/3/3	Operational Guides and Technical Documents (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/4	Training (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/5	Communications and exercises (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/6	Mediterranean Assistance Unit (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/4/7	Accidents in the Mediterranean region (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/5	No working documents issued under this agenda item

Implementation of the emergency Protocol, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines as well as the various decisions of the Contracting Parties' Meetings

REMPEC/WG.14/6	Implementation of the Emergency Protocol, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines, as well as the various decisions of the Contracting Parties' Meetings (Note by REMPEC)
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Review of the current situation concerning the development of national, sub-regional and regional capabilities

REMPEC/WG.14/7/1	Review of current state of national systems for preparedness and response (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/7/2	Development of sub-regional operational agreements for combating major marine pollution accidents affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts or related interests of neighbouring countries (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/7/3	No working document issued under this agenda item
REMPEC/WG.14/7/4	Review of the current situation concerning the combating capabilities available for assistance in case of a major accident in the Mediterranean region (Note by REMPEC)

Preparedness for and response to maritime related accidents involving Hazardous Substances

REMPEC/WG.14/8/1	Pilot projects related to preparedness and response to accidents in port areas (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/8/2	GESAMP working group on the evaluation of harmful substances (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/8/3	Co-operation with chemical and shipping industries (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/9	OPRC 90 Convention and OPRC working group (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/10	International instruments on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/11	Regional cooperation for prevention of and response to the pollution of the marine environment from sea-based activities within the new context of MAP Phase II (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/12	Need for the revision of the Emergency Protocol within the new context of the MAP Phase II (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/13	Role and function of REMPEC in the new context of the MAP Phase II (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/14	Medium term programme (1998/2003) decisions and guidance for the programme and the 1998/1999 and budget (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/15	Co-operation and coordination with other International Organizations and Programmes (EU-World Bank/UNDP-Euro Med/METAP/GEF) (Note by REMPEC)
REMPEC/WG.14/16/1	Meteorological Support to Marine Pollution Emergency Response Operations on the High Seas (WMO-MPERSS) (Submitted by WMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/16/1/Add.1	Meteorological Support to Marine Pollution Emergency Response Operations on the High Seas (WMO-MPERSS) (Submitted by WMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/17	Report of the Meeting

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.14/INF.1	Provisional list of Documents
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.2	List of Participants
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.3	Report of the Joint Regional Training Course on preparedness for and response to marine pollution incidents involving oil and other hazardous substances in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, MEDIPOL 95, Istanbul, Turkey, 6-14 October 1995.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.4	Report of the National Seminar for decision-makers and Government officials, Tirana, Albania, 13-15 February 1995.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.5	Report of the National workshop for decision-makers and government officials involved in accidental marine pollution preparedness and response activities in GSP Libyan AJ Tripoli, GSP Libyan AJ, 23-25 September 1995.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.6	Report of the National training course on oil pollution preparedness and response for on-scene commander and supervisors, Tirana, Albania, 13-17 May 1996.

REMPEC/WG.14/INF.7	Report of the Subregional joint spill response exercise (Cyprus, Egypt, Israel) Port Said, Egypt 22 and 25 October 1995.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.8	Report of the Combined Mediterranean European Communication Exercise MECOMEX 96, 28 May 1996.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.8/1	Report of MECOMEX 96 (Submitted by Greece).
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.9	Report on Accidents in the Mediterranean (Submitted by REMPEC) - English only
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.10	Projet pour la realisation d'un atlas pour la preparation à la lutte et la lutte contre les pollutions marines accidentelles sur les côtes Méditerranéennes (Submitted by ENSP, IFREMER, CEDRE and ENIS)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.11	Co-operation between governments and industry/initiatives of the oil industry - The experience of AGIP in contingency planning for exploration and production activities in the Mediterranean Sea (Submitted by AGIP s.p.a)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.12	Evaluation of hazards of chemical substances carried by ships - the Role of GESAMP (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.13	Composite list of hazard profiles (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.14	GESAMP composite list database (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.15	Impact of oil and related chemicals and wastes on the marine environment - GESAMP Reports and Studies: 50 (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.16	Guidelines for Marine Environmental Assessments - GESAMP Reports and Studies: 54 (Submitted by IMO)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.17	APELL for Port Areas. Handbook jointly prepared and published by IMO and UNEP IE.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.18	Guidance concerning chemical safety in port areas. Prepared as a joint effort by the OECD and the IMO.
REMPEC.WG.14/INF.22	Texts of Conventions on liability and compensation for oil pollution damage - 1995 edition - IOPCF.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.23	International Convention on liability and compensation for damage in connection with the carriage of hazardous and noxious substances by sea, 1996; and, Protocol of 1996 to amend the Convention on limitation of liability for maritime claims 1976.
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.25	Development of Subregional Operational Agreements for the combating major marine pollution accidents affecting or likely to affect the territorial sea, coasts or related interests of neighboring countries. Algeria/Morocco/Tunisia oil pollution management project for the South-West Mediterranean Sea (Submitted by The World Bank)
REMPEC/WG. 14/INF.26	Co-operation between Government and the oil and shipping industries concerning preparedness for and response to oil pollution (Submitted by IPIECA - MOIG)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.27	Development of Subregional Operational Agreements for combating major marine pollution accidents affecting or likely to affect territorial sea, coasts or related interests of neighbouring countries. Algeria/Egypt/Libya/Morocco/Tunisia oil pollution management project for the South Mediterranean Sea (Submitted by The World Bank)
REMPEC/WG.14/INF.28	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership - Barcelona Declaration/Work Programme, 27-28 November 1995 (Submitted by E.C.)

REMPEC/RIS/A	Basic documents, recommendations, principles and guidelines concerning accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance (September 1995)
REMPEC/RIS/B/1	Directory of Competent National Authorities in Charge of Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness, Response and Mutual Assistance and other Relevant Information (March 1996, revised June 1996)
REMPEC/RIS/B/4	Directory of Companies Offering Services in the Mediterranean in Case of Emergency (October 1996)
REMPEC/RIS/C/1	Description of the Centre's Databank on Hazardous Substances and Information Services Provided by the Centre (July 1992)
REMPEC/RIS/C/4	List of Alerts and Accidents in the Mediterranean (March 1996)
REMPEC/RIS/C/5	Directory of Mediterranean Ports (preliminary version July 1992)
REMPEC/RIS/C/6	Standardized Classification Systems for Chemicals Accidentally Spilt at Sea (May 1991)
REMPEC/RIS/C/7	Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres (Preliminary Version October 1992)
REMPEC/RIS/C/8	Database on the Transport of Chemical Substances - TROCS (June 1993)
REMPEC/RIS/D/1	Guide for Combating Accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (January 1995)
REMPEC/RIS/D/2	Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region (January 1994)
REMPEC/RIS/D/4	The Significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet (March 1991)
REMPEC/RIS/D/6	The TROCS database and its use in response to lost packages washed ashore (December 1992)
REMPEC/RIS/D/7	Theory and Practice of Foams in Chemical Spill Response (May 1992)
REMPEC/RIS/D/11	Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents (May 1996).

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

UNEP	Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, 1976
UNEP	Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, 1985
UNEP	Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, Barcelona, Spain, 16 February 1976
UNEP	Resolution 7 adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean Region on the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, Barcelona, 16 February 1976

UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5	Annex related to the Objectives and Functions of a Regional Centre for Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean by Oil and other Harmful Substances, Athens, Greece, 6 October 1989
UNEP/IG.74/5	Report of the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, Athens, Greece, 11 September 1987
UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.1/5	Report of the Sixth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, Athens, Greece, 3-6 October 1989
UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.2/4	Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, Cairo, Egypt, 11 October 1991
UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.3/5	Report of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, Antalya, Turkey, 15 October 1993
UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16	Report of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols, Barcelona, Spain 5-8 June 1995.
UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.6/6	Report of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution and its Protocols - Barcelona, Spain 10 June 1995.
UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7	Report of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related Protocols, Montpellier, France 1-4 July 1996.
UNEP/WG.150/8	Report of the Review Meeting on the Structure and Functions of the Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, Malta, 27 February 1987
REMPEC/WG.3/5	Report of the Meeting of the Drafting Group on Principles and Guidelines concerning Co-operation and Mutual Assistance in Case of Emergency, Malta, 22 March 1991
REMPEC/WG.4/4	Report of the Meeting of National Experts on Port Reception Facilities in the Mediterranean, Cairo, Egypt, 19 December 1991
	<u>Appendix IV</u> - Action Plan concerning the Provision of Adequate Port Reception Facilities within the Mediterranean Region
REMPEC/WG.5/12	Report of the Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) Malta, 26 September 1992
REMPEC/WG.9/5	Report of the Workshop on Preparedness for and Response to Maritime Related Accidents, involving hazardous substances in Mediterranean Port Areas and their Approaches, Barcelona, Spain, 22-26 March 1994
REMPEC/WG.10/17	Report of the Meeting of Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) Malta, 4-8 October 1994.
IMO	International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990

IMO

Resolutions adopted by the Conference on International Co-operation on Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response, London, 30 November 1990

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Protection of the Oceans, all Kinds of Seas including Enclosed and Semi-enclosed Seas and Coastal Areas and the Protection, Rational Use and Development of their Living Resources. (Annex II, Chapter 17, Action Programme Agenda 21) - 1992

ANNEX IV

PREPARATION OF SENSITIVITY MAPS

Summary of the presentation made under agenda item 5, by François Cauneau, *chargé de recherche, Goupe télédétection & Modélisation* of the *Ecole de Mines de Paris*

AN ATLAS FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION The Region of Sfax, Tunisia

Within the context of the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for Sfax, Tunisia, REMPEC has select a group of four partners to develop sensitivity maps for the coastal zone of the region of Sfax as a contribution to the development of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for marine accidental pollution for Tunisia. The four partners are:

- Ecole des Mines de Paris; for project co-ordination, and for the development of the atlas;
- Institut Français de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER); for the development of the methodology;
- Centre de Documentation de Recherche et Experimentation sur les Pollutions accidentelles des Eaux (CEDRE); for data collection;
- Ecole National d'Ingénieurs de Sfax (ENIS); for the co-ordination of the Tunisian contribution.

This project is a follow-up of an mock exercise for the preparation of sensitivity maps undertaken for the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, in 1994. The present project is divided into four phases which is to be completed in one year:

- the development of methodology;
- the collection of the data;
- the development of the (sensitivity maps) atlas;
- the installation of the atlas in a automated system and its evaluation: the training of operators.

The project is currently in phase three.

Numerous interactions and exchange of views with local experts have lead to significant adaptation in the initial design of the project. Initially, the project was to be oriented along three main themes:

- the risk;
- the sensitivity in the area;
- the vulnerability.

For this project, the notion of risk describes the potential sources of a pollution event, e.g. maritime traffic, the oil industry, and its associated transport taken in relation to the oceanographic properties etc. The notion of sensitivity implies the physical, natural, and other man-made systems which may suffer from the occurrence of a pollution event, e.g fauna, flora, touristic amenities fishery etc. Vulnerability is then defined as a matrix of these two themes: risk and sensitivity.

In order to allow a scaling down approach of the three themes from an broad-brush overall or "global" level down to the operational level, the project has five levels of scales. The overall (global) level covers the Mediterranean showing how the area studied is situated within the general context of the Mediterranean basin and includes information on ships routes, general current circulation, main sensitive areas etc. The national level mainly covers the Tunisian coast including the Tunisian waters. The regional level covers approximately the Gulf of Gabes, and two local levels cover the district of Sfax and Kerkenna islands, the town of Sfax, its harbour, and the zone of Thyna.

The information system based on such an approach, must be able to juxtapose on maps, the information identified by national and international experts. The work carried out during the first phases of the project has lead to the conclusion that such a system would have to be designed under three constraints.

The first technical constraint results from the fact that such an atlas is designed for two different categories of end-users: decision-makers at regional and national levels, and local operators; the output (documents etc.) that is therefore produced is thus very different, in its format and content.

The second constraint results from the specificity in the coastal zone: it relates to the description of marine, terrestrial and atmospheric systems, their interactions, and the description of the human activities that take place within these systems, all of which are characterized by variability, yet the tool developed must offer a relative guarantee of information durability with time.

The third constraint is that the tool developed should be of benefit to and benefit from other analogous projects carried out for land, such as the geographical information system - MEDGEOBASE - and that developed by the Blue Plan (BP/RAC) for Sfax.

The results of the work carried out so far have been the definition of an information system for a coastal zone, a digital system developed under an exploitable system compatible with the one of the other Tunisian projects in the region, using in part the data collected under these projects.

The data collected on the three main themes considered at the five different levels of scales have lead to an identification of 135 relevant sub-themes, 75% of which have been adequately described in document, map, numerical format. The data have been collected with the help of contacts established with 27 Tunisian organizations: national agencies and authorities (e.g. ANPE, DGAT, SEREPT, etc.), regional entities (e.g. the local government of Sfax etc.), and local stakeholders (e.g. harbour authorities etc.). Regarding the problem of gaps in the data, the initial methodology has been modified which allowed certain assumptions to be made to define a minimum level of data which would adequately describe the sub-themes classified according to priorities.

In conclusion, the progress made to date can be considered as a success and has illustrated the level of co-operation reached between the different partners participating in the project as well as with the Tunisian organizations. Most of the expected themes are now described through relevant documentation. One interesting factor which emerges from this work is the demonstration that the information needed for the project is, for the most part, already available. The data are now integrated into the digital information system. The quantity and the diversity of data have necessitated the development of a specific methodology and tool. The fourth phase should now be carried out at the end of this year (1996) and the beginning of the next (1997).

ANNEX(E) V**STATUS OF RATIFICATION BY THE MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STATES
OF RELEVANT IMO CONVENTIONS****ETAT DES RATIFICATIONS PAR LES ETATS RIVERAINS DE LA MEDITERRANEE
DES CONVENTIONS PERTINENTES DE L'OMI***(as at September 1996 / à septembre 1996)*

COUNTRY / PAYS	SOLAS 74	SOLAS PROTOCOL 78	SOLAS PROTOCOL 88	LL 66	LL PROTOCOL 88	COLREG 72	CSC 72	STCW 78	FAL 65	MARPOL 73 / 78	ANNEX(E) III	ANNEX(E) IV	ANNEX(E) V
ALBANIA / ALBANIE													
ALGERIA / ALGERIE	+	+		+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE													
CROATIA / CROATIE	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
CYPRUS / CHYPRE	+	+		+		+		+		+			+
EGYPT / EGYPTÉ	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+
FRANCE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
GREECE / GRECE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ISRAEL	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+			
ITALY / ITALIE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
LEBANON / LIBAN	+	+		+				+		+	+	+	+
LIBYA / LIBYE	+	+		+				+					
MALTA / MALTE	+	+		+		+		+		+			
MONACO	+			+		+			+	+	+	+	+
MOROCCO / MAROC	+			+		+	+			+	+	+	+
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE	+	+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
SYRIA / SYRIE				+		+			+	+			
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	+	+		+		+		+	+	+	+	+	+
TURKEY / TURQUIE	+			+		+		+		+			+

COUNTRY / PAYS	INTERVENTION 69	INTERVENTION PROTOCOL 73	CLC 69	PROTOCOL 76	PROTOCOL 92	FUND 71	PROTOCOL 76	PROTOCOL 92	LLMC 76	SALVAGE 89	OPRC 90
ALBANIA / ALBANIE			+	+		+	+				
ALGERIA / ALGERIE			+			+					
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZEGOVINE											
CROATIA / CROATIE	+	+	+			+			+		
CYPRUS / CHYPRE			+	+		+	+				
EGYPT / EGYPTÉ	+	+	+	+	+				+	+	+
FRANCE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
GREECE / GRECE			+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
ISRAEL											
ITALY / ITALIE	+	+	+	+		+	+			+	
LEBANON / LIBAN	+		+								
LIBYA / LIBYE											
MALTA / MALTE			+	+		+	+				
MONACO	+		+			+					
MOROCCO / MAROC	+		+			+	+				
SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE	+	+	+			+					
SPAIN / ESPAGNE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+
SYRIA / SYRIE	+		+			+					
TUNISIA / TUNISIE	+	+	+			+					+
TURKEY / TURQUIE											

Note: The 1984 Protocols to the CLC 69 and the FUND 71 Conventions are no longer viable, since they have been replaced by the 1992 Protocols to both Conventions.

Des Protocoles de 1984 à la Convention de 1969 sur la responsabilité civile et la Convention de 1971 portant création du Fonds International d'Indemnisation sont remplacés par les Protocoles de 1992 aux mêmes Conventions.

ANNEX VI

MINUTES OF THE MOIG MEETING

On October 23rd 1996, an informal meeting was held between the representatives of oil industry present in their national delegation attending REMPEC Focal Points Meeting.

The meeting was attended by delegates from France, Italy, Libya, Tunisia, Turkey, E & P Forum, IPIECA and CEFIC (chemical industry). All participants have acknowledged difficulties encountered to set up a Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG).

During this meeting, reasons for the lack of general interest were analysed but it was unanimously agreed to persist with the MOIG initiative.

Such a group would have similar functions to those already existing in other parts of the world. But, given the very specific situation of the Mediterranean, the main purpose of MOIG should be to collaborate with REMPEC to enhance the effectiveness of oil spill prevention and response.

It is anticipated that the creation of a network of experienced National Industry Personnel will represent an added resource of mutual benefit to Government and Industry.

The proposed initiatives of MOIG are:

- 1) to develop, implement and update a data base of available resources, personnel and equipment owned by oil industries and to facilitate the access of these equipment;
- 2) to exchange information on training programmes and exercises and encourage attendants of Government personnel in industry training courses and vice versa;
- 3) to promote compatibility of Government and Industry contingency plans.

To try reactivating this Mediterranean Group, oil industry representatives request REMPEC Focal Points to advise on appropriate oil industry contacts in their countries.

A meeting is envisaged in early 1997.

ANNEX VII

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
ON THE REGIONAL STRATEGY AS REGARDS THE PREVENTION OF THE POLLUTION
OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY SHIPS**

(to be submitted to the Contracting Parties for adoption)

The Contracting Parties, at their meeting in

Considering the importance to associate prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships to preparedness and response to such pollution in order to contribute to sustainable development in the Mediterranean Sea and to implement Agenda 21;

Taking into account the relevant part of the "Action Plan for the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable development of the coastal areas of the Mediterranean" (MAP Phase II) adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries held in Barcelona on 10 June 1995;

Acknowledging the conclusions of their extraordinary Meeting held in Montpellier 1 to 4 July 1996 which decided to ask the Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC to study the question of regional co-operation in the field of prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships;

Having noted the conclusions of this Meeting held in Malta 22 to 26 October 1996.

.....

.....

- I. **Adopt** the regional strategy on prevention of the pollution of the marine environment by ships, here appended;
- II. **Decide** that, as a consequence, the Protocol on emergency is to be amended in order to introduce in it the provisions necessary to implement this strategy and desire to adopt the corresponding amendments on the occasion of their 1999 meeting;
- III. **Decide** that, pending the adoption and entry into force of these amendments, REMPEC be charged to implement this strategy as regards co-operation between Mediterranean States, supplementing in this way its action concerning preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution;
- IV. **Adopt** the Annex to their Resolution 7 regarding the objectives and functions of REMPEC as amended.

REGIONAL STRATEGY ON PREVENTION OF THE POLLUTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY SHIPS

More than 90% of world trade is shipped by sea. About 30% of the world's maritime trade either transits through the Mediterranean sea directly or leaves from or is directed to the 300 ports scattered along the basin's coastline. There are 58 major oil loading and unloading ports in the Mediterranean. Commercial shipping in the Mediterranean is so dense as to present high risk patterns likely to provoke massive pollution by oil or other hazardous substances in particular because of the insufficient or inadequate enforcement of international standards. Operational discharges from ships (oily wastes, noxious liquid substances, sewage and garbage) also constitute an important source of pollution.

The social and economic development of Mediterranean coastal countries is in particular linked to maritime safety and the quality of the marine environment. Consequently, in a sustainable development prospective, **it is more important to prevent accidents than to combat the pollution of the marine environment which might be a consequence of them.**

In the light of these considerations, **MAP Phase II** had decided to conduct a number of activities with the assistance of the Regional Centre and with the co-operation of the International Maritime Organization.

Accordingly, regional cooperation should be developed towards an effective implementation of International Conventions and in particular those adopted under the aegis of IMO, without adding normative provisions to those in these Conventions.

This regional co-operation shall take into account the regional framework for co-operation established by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership as well as, within this context, the mutual commitments binding the European Union to its Mediterranean Partners.

This strategy aims at:

- a) strengthening national capacity
 - i) by improving the capacity of administrations (in charge of maritime transport and environment) to develop and implement prevention policies by:
 - training programmes
 - supplying information and expertise including access to technology
 - conducting pilot programmes
 - ii) by developing equipment and infrastructure resources by:
 - conducting technical and pre-investment studies
 - conducting pilot projects
- b) developing regional cooperation
 - i) by organising dialogue with a view to conducting co-ordinated activities at all levels: national, regional and global (within IMO)
 - ii) by implementing programmes that require concerted actions and measures at the regional level
 - iii) by conducting studies on subjects of regional interest.

This strategy will concentrate mainly on the following priority activities:

- a) monitoring the effective implementation of the relevant IMO Conventions by the Flag State, Port State and Coastal State;
- b) developing port reception facilities;
- c) safety of navigation;
- d) surveillance of discharges and prosecution of offenders;
- e) emergency towing.

ANNEX VIII

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE 1998-1999 BIENNIUM
FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF REMPEC
IN THE FIELD OF PREPAREDNESS FOR, RESPONSE TO AND COOPERATION
IN CASE OF ACCIDENTAL MARINE POLLUTION**

A. Concerning preparedness, the Centre should:

- i) continue to develop and maintain the Regional Information System and develop tools as an aid to decision taking;
- ii) focus its intent and action mainly on developing national systems for preparedness and response as well as adopting subregional contingency plans;
- iii) organize a training programme geared to the requirements of the region with special attention paid to providing assistance to States so they can deliver their own national training courses and by giving the priority to countries that need them the most. This will have to fall within the budget envelope of the Centre;
- iv) undertake and co-operate in activities with the appropriate organizations regarding preparedness and response to maritime related accidents involving hazardous substances that occur in port areas or their approaches;
- v) organize exercises so as to test the regional co-operation scheme;
- vi) prepare new provisions and procedures that will apply in the event of international co-operation and assistance;
- vii) continue and intensify the contacts and relations with organizations that represent the shipping and the oil industries with a view to developing co-operation between government and industry;
- viii) organize and maintain the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, MAU, in a state of operational readiness.

B. In the event of marine pollution, at the request of States, in compliance with its objectives and functions and due to account being given to the resources available, REMPEC must:

- i) highlight and provide technical advice and information that States may require and use accordingly the Regional Information System that was developed and that is kept up to date by the Centre;
- ii) activate the MAU to assist in responding to accidental marine pollution;
- iii) assist in securing and coordinating international assistance whether the equipment, products or strike teams are provided by government or industry;
- iv) endeavour to assist States, that have sustained damage, to disseminate information.

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
I. INFORMATION Collection and dissemination of information (e.g. guidelines, recommendations and technical documents) from other relevant organizations and from the shipping, oil and chemical industry. REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (oil and hazardous substances) PART A: Basic Documents, Recommendations, Principles and Guidelines concerning marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance. 1. Guidelines related to the legal and financial aspects of mutual assistance.	REMPEC		X
PART B: Lists and Inventories 2. Directory of competent national authorities in charge of accidental marine pollution preparedness, response and mutual assistance and other relevant information - SECTION 1.	REMPEC	X	X
3. Inventory of experts, equipment and products which can be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of a State, which so requests, in cases of emergency - SECTION 2.	REMPEC	X	
4. Directory of companies offering services in the Mediterranean in case of emergency - SECTION 4.	REMPEC		X
5. Complete computerization and maintain this part of the RIS.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
PART C : Databanks, Forecasting Models and Decision Support Systems 6. Maintenance, utilization and updating of the partially computerized databank of the Centre.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
7. Acquisition of behaviour simulation models.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
8. Description of the Centre's databanks simulation models and information services which can be provided by the Centre.	REMPEC		X
9. Develop and maintain the database TROCS.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
10. List of alerts and accidents in the Mediterranean.	REMPEC	X	X
11. Directory of Mediterranean Ports.	REMPEC	X	
12. Directory of Mediterranean Meteorological Centres.	REMPEC	X	

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
<u>PART D : Operational Guides and Technical Documents</u>			
13. Associated risks of gases and volatile liquids spilled at sea. (Supplement)	REMPEC	X	
14. Impact of spilled hazardous substances on human life and the marine environment.	REMPEC	X	
15. Case histories describing hazardous material spills.	REMPEC		X
16. Priority list of substances.	REMPEC		X
17. Technical intervention files of an operational character by substance.	REMPEC		X
18. Guide of countermeasures for dealing with maritime incidents involving hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
<u>II. ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUEST, IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL CAPABILITIES</u>			
<u>A. National and Subregional Systems</u>			
19. Assistance to countries in developing their information sources at the national level by providing computerized material developed by REMPEC.	REMPEC	on request	
20. Providing assistance to countries which so request, to develop their national system for preparedness and response.	Consultant	on request	
21. Providing assistance to countries which so request, for the preparation of projects for the acquisition of combating equipment which would be submitted to possible sources of international financing.	Consultant	on request	
22. Development of sub-regional systems for combating major marine pollution accidents: (a) Eastern Mediterranean (b) Adriatic (c) Central Mediterranean	EEC / REMPEC Consultant	X X	X X X
23. Providing assistance to States, which so request, for the preparation and development of bilateral operational agreements amongst neighbouring coastal States.	REMPEC Consultant	on request	
<u>B. Port Emergency Response System</u>			
24. Risk analysis: - Pilot project	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
25. Port emergency plan: - Pilot project	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X
26. Decision support system: - Adaptation of CAMEO to Mediterranean Region	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X
- Pilot Project	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X
- Training	REMPEC in cooperation with other organizations	X	X
27. Follow up of a communications network between Mediterranean ports for the exchange of information - feasibility study.	follow-up and coordination by REMPEC	X	X
III. <u>TRAINING</u>			
28. Regional training courses of a general type on oil and hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
29. Specialized regional training course on oil.	REMPEC		X
30. Specialized regional training course on hazardous substances.	REMPEC	X	
31. Regional training course for trainers (French).	REMPEC		X
32. Regional training course for trainers (English).	REMPEC		
33. Providing assistance to States, which so request in the preparation of national training seminars (assistance to two seminars per year).	REMPEC	on request	
34. Making available teaching documents for national training activities.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
35. Identifying training capabilities in the region for preparedness and response to accidents in ports.	REMPEC	X	
36. Preparation of a training programme on preparedness and response in ports.	REMPEC	X	

ACTIVITIES / ACTIONS	CARRIED OUT BY	YEAR OF REALIZATION	
		1998	1999
IV. <u>CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY</u>			
37. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of the standard alert message and communications network.	REMPEC	X	X
38. Organization of "paper exercises".	REMPEC	X	
39. Organization of "operational exercises with the deployment of equipment".	in cooperation with a Contracting Party or with the oil industry		X
40. Organization and administration of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit to assist combating accidental marine pollution.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
41. Maintenance of relations and contacts with the representative organizations of oil and shipping industries.	REMPEC	permanent activity	
42. Co-operation with the chemical industry (ICE project).	REMPEC in cooperation with CEFIC	permanent activity	