



The Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation project -West MOPoCo (2019-2020):

- supports Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia in collaboration with Monaco;
- strengthens their cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) marine pollution and improves the quality and interoperability of their response capacities.

A WORD FROM THE COORDINATOR



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de la mer

It was an honour to share with country officials from around the Mediterranean, and all our partners who joined us during MEDEXPOL 2020, the results of two years of collective work. I want to thank our West MOPoCo colleagues for their continued efforts, especially during this trying period. I hope that the tools we have developed and tested under West MOPoCo can benefit our global pollution response community. They seek to strengthen cooperation in the Mediterranean, our only way of effectively responding to large-scale marine pollution events.

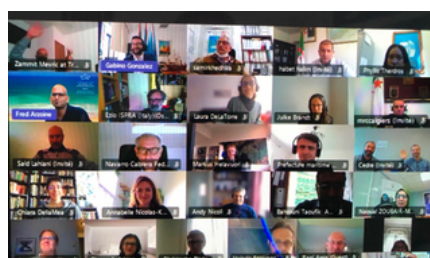
Rear-Admiral Jean-François Quérat
Deputy Secretary General for the Sea

FEEDBACK FROM MEDEXPOL 2020

The webinar to enhance regional cooperation in responding to Marine Oil and HNS pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020) took place on 27 and 28 October 2020. The conference, organised by REMPEC in co-operation with SGMer, gathered representatives from the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the greater North Sea and its approaches, the Baltic sea, the European Commission, IMO and international partners working in pollution preparedness and response.

West MOPoCo participants presented the **project main achievements and innovations**, and shared their national experience implementing its activities. The meeting focussed on opportunities to continue the action and enlarge cooperation. Its main recommendations will be submitted to the 14th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

Webinar to enhance marine pollution regional cooperation in the Mediterranean
27 & 28 October 2020



[More information and the event's working documents are available on REMPEC's website.](#)

CHEMICAL POLLUTION

FINAL STAGE FOR THE INTER-REGIONAL HNS MANUAL AND MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0

During MEDEXPOL 2020, Cedre presented the final draft of the **Joint Inter-regional HNS Preparedness and Response Manual**, to complete consultations with the Contracting Parties to the three Regional Seas Conventions for the Mediterranean, the Baltic and the Greater North Sea and its approaches. The Manual, prepared with ITOPF Ltd. and ISPRA, provides **comprehensive operational guidance for first responders and decision makers on marine incident involving HNS, for both preparedness and response phases**. The Manual includes exclusive information on new, empirically tested chemicals, and will be available for download on the project website in Spring 2021.

This information will be integrated into the database of the upgraded **MIDSIS TROCS 4.0**, REMPEC's **Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS-TROCS 3.0)**, to be publicly available in French and English on REMPEC's website and as standalone application in spring 2021.

These tools represent an important step in the global strategy to improve knowledge on marine HNS pollution preparedness response.

MANUALS ON THE NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE MOBILIZATION OF RESPONSE EQUIPMENT AND EXPERTS

Beneficiary countries, with support from the West MOPoCo project, have developed **Manuals describing the national mechanisms for the mobilisation of equipment and expertise in case of emergency**. These Manuals have helped national authorities centralise detailed information on contact points and available equipment, and comply with their reporting requirements under the Barcelona Convention by updating **REMPEC's Country Profiles** and **MEDGIS MAR** database accordingly. The template developed under the West MOPoCo project will be revised following the recommendations of MEDEXPOL 2020 and available for download on the project website.

ESTABLISHING SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE SUB-REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONTINGENCY PLANS

The West MOPoCo consortium in collaboration with the RAMOGE Secretariat worked on identifying actions to **establish synergies between the three Sub-regional Agreements and plans currently enforced in the Western Mediterranean (RAMOGEPOL, LionPlan & AMT)**.

The **resulting Study** provides a detailed comparative analysis of the plans and practical recommendations on the potential pre-arrangements and joint activities for national and regional administrations to implement. These should ensure coherence, avoid duplication of effort and a more efficient use of available resources. During MEDEXPOL 2020, participants agreed with the main recommendations of the Study, and confirmed their interest in creating connections towards **a network of sub-regional contingency plans** across and beyond the Mediterranean.

OIL SPILLS RESULTS FROM THE ASSESSMENTS OF NATIONAL OSR PROGRAMMES

The **first harmonised assessment of the level of planning and preparedness to oil spills in the Western Mediterranean** is complete! Responsible authorities in West MOPoCo seven Beneficiary countries, France, Italy and Spain, with facilitation from ITOPF Ltd. in Algeria, Malta, Morocco & Tunisia used a common readiness evaluation tool to analyse their national oil spill response programmes (OSR) and develop detailed improvement programmes. Although the assessments revealed very different gaps according to the countries, reflecting the diversity of marine pollution response systems across the Western Mediterranean, **MEDEXPOL 2020 participants concurred on the usefulness of such a tool to analyse their OSR programmes, gather relevant administrations and raise awareness on pollution planning**. The meeting also recommended the assistance of an external consultant to facilitate national workshops.

For an example of a national assessment and improvement workshop, see **Italy's latest national event**, organised by ISPRA in June 2020.



His Excellency, the President of Malta Dr George Vella visited REMPEC on Wednesday 21 October 2020. During his presentation, Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office, REMPEC, introduced the West MOPoCo project.

Contact

Secrétariat général de la mer
Mathilde Kraft
Tel: +33 (0) 1 42 75 66 61
sgmer@pm.gouv.fr

For more information about the project and upcoming activities visit
West MOPoCo Website
www.westmopoco.rempec.org



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