



**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

Regional Workshop to enhance regional cooperation in responding
to marine Oil and HNS pollution in the Mediterranean
(MEDEXPOL 2020)

27-28 October 2020, online

REMPEC/WG.47/7
Date: 16 March 2021

Original: English

REPORT
OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE REGIONAL COOPERATION IN
RESPONDING TO MARINE OIL AND HNS POLLUTION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
(MEDEXPOL 2020)

27-28 October 2020



INTRODUCTION

1 The Regional Workshop to enhance Regional Cooperation in responding to Marine Oil and HNS Pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020) was held online from 27 to 28 October 2020 in the framework of the two-year Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation project (West MOPoCo), co-funded by the European Union. This workshop was organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP, adopted by the Twenty first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean ("the Barcelona Convention") and its Protocols (COP 21), which was held in Naples, Italy from 2 to 5 December 2019.

2 The principal objectives of the Workshop were:

1. to provide an overview and discuss the project achievements and innovations.
2. to identify opportunities to enlarge the cooperation between parties to existing Sub-regional Contingency Plans.
3. to examine the project outputs and submit relevant recommendations to the 14th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

3 All REMPEC OPRC Focal Points were invited to nominate, jointly and in consultation with their respective REMPEC Governmental and MTWG Focal Points, their representatives in the Workshop. The participation of observers representing the oil, chemical, port and shipping industries in national delegations was strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Workshop was also extended to the West MOPoCo partners, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to the international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre.

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

ALBANIA	MALTA
ALGERIA	MONACO
CROATIA	MONTENEGRO
EUROPEAN UNION	MOROCCO
FRANCE	NETHERLANDS
GREECE	SLOVENIA
ISRAEL	SPAIN
ITALY	TUNISIA
JORDAN	TURKEY

- by delegations from the following Countries:

BELGIUM
DENMARK
ESTONIA
FINLAND
LATVIA

by representatives from the following organisations:

- DG EUROPEAN CIVIL PROTECTION AND HUMANITARIAN AID OPERATIONS
- CENTRE OF DOCUMENTATION, RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION ON ACCIDENTAL WATER POLLUTION (CEDRE)
- SECRETARIAT OF THE BONN AGREEMENT

- BALTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMISSION (HELCOM)
- TRANSPORT CANADA
- INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LIMITED (ITOPF)
- BONN AGREEMENT
- EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTRE ON CLIMATE CHANGE
- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS (IOPC FUNDS)
- MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)
- OIL SPILL EDUCATION AND CONSULTING (OSEC)

5 A complete list of participants appears in **Annex I** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

6 The Workshop was opened by the Head of Office of REMPEC on Tuesday, 27 October 2020 at 10:00 hours. Mr. Gonzalez welcomed the participants to the Regional Workshop on response to spill incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (MEDEXPOL 2020).

7 Monsieur le Secrétaire général adjoint de la mer, contre-amiral Jean-François Quérat, delivered via video message an introductory speech, stressing the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to respond to major marine pollution events and protection of the marine environment of the Mediterranean. Contre-amiral Quérat recalled the challenge of developing and maintaining an effective national marine pollution preparedness and response programme. He noted with satisfaction the high levels of planning and the resources and equipment available in the Western Mediterranean, both within national capacities and via cooperative mechanisms. He commended the efforts undertaken during the West MOPoCo project to strengthen this solidarity in the Western Mediterranean but also to test and develop new tools that would benefit the entire international community, particularly on chemical pollution preparedness and response, our new collective challenge.

8 Mr Gonzalez expressed the appreciation of REMPEC and the project team to the Secrétariat général de la mer (SGMer) France for the fruitful coordination of the West MOPoCo Project. He then introduced the Project Coordinator, Ms. Mathilde Kraft from SGMer who presented the Project.

9 Ms Kraft presented the project background, the beneficiary countries and partners, its structure, main objectives and expected outputs. She reminded that West MOPoCo was co-funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (DG ECHO) for two years and gathered representatives from the national authorities from seven Beneficiary countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia), the Secretariats from three Regional Seas Conventions (Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and REMPEC) and expert institutions (CEDRE, ITOPF and ISPRA). The project focussed on three main outcomes: the assessment of national levels of oil spill planning and preparedness, the update and upgrade of decision-making tools and the strengthening of emergency procedures and regional cooperation. The results of this project were presented and discussed in the different sessions of the present Workshop.

10 Mr. Gonzalez reminded that MEDEXPOL 2020 is financed through the West MOPoCo Project recalling that MEDEXPOL regional workshops are organized by REMPEC every two years as regional forum where experts from the region exchange best practices and provide recommendation for further consideration by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE WORKSHOP AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.1 Rules of Procedure

11 Due to the Covid-19 health crisis, the Workshop was not organized physically in Monaco as originally planned but as an online event.

12 Special arrangements were agreed by REMPEC and SGMer for the delivery of the Workshop. A moderator and a rapporteur were identified for each session of the Workshop agenda items. The moderators had to introduce the presentations, guide the discussion at the end of each session and prompt participant's interaction.

2.2 Election of Officers

13 Following informal consultations held with SG Mer, the Head of Office of REMPEC proposed the following officers of the Workshop:

Agenda item 3 – Session 1

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| - Mr Markus Helavuori (HELCOM) | Facilitator |
| - Ms Laura de La Torre (Bonn Agreement) | Rapporteur |

Agenda Item 4- Session 2

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| - Mr Rani Amir (Israel) | Facilitator |
| - Mr Pablo Pedrosa Rey (Spain) | Rapporteur |

Agenda Item 5 - Session 3.1

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| - Ms Naoual Zoubair (Sub regional contingency Plan
Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) | Facilitator |
| - Ms Anne Vissio (Accord RAMOGE) | Rapporteur |

Session3.2

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| - Mr Mevric Zammit (Malta) | Facilitator |
| - Mr Hadj Aissa Raouf (Algeria) | Rapporteur |

Agenda Item -6 – Session 4

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| - Mr Ezio Amato / ISPRA (Italy) | Facilitator |
| - Mr Samir Khedhira (Tunisia) | Rapporteur |

2.3 Working Languages

14 The working languages of the Workshop were English and French. Simultaneous English/French interpretation was provided during the Workshop. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre. However, information documents were available in their original language only, unless a translation was provided in the second working language.

2.4. Adoption of the Agenda

15 Mr Gonzalez thanked the Workshop and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG/47/2 be adopted. The Workshop adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report and the list of documents is presented in **Annex III**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ENHANCING EMERGENCY DECISION-MAKING CAPABILITIES (SESSION 1)

16 Mr Gonzalez invited Mr Markus Helavuori Professional Secretary, Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, to introduce the first session entitled "Enhancing emergency decision-making capabilities", where the West MOPoCo Project deliverables namely: **The Marine HNS response manual – Multi regional, Bonn Agreement; HELCOM, REMPEC**, (the Manual) and the **Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS TROCS 4.0)** will be presented.

17 Mr Helavuori recalled that the Manual was developed as a joint inter-regional effort between REMPEC, the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM along with the technical assistance of Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF. This new manual combined the existing HNS manuals developed separately in the 2000s for the Mediterranean, the North and the Baltic Sea.

18 Mr Helavuori invited Mr Arnaud Guena, Deputy Director and Mr William Giraud, Production Manager from the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water (Cedre) to introduce the consultation process leading to the development of the Manual, which is expected by many in the Mediterranean, North Sea, the Baltic Sea and at Global level. Mr Helavuori referred to the working Document REMPEC/WG.47/3 and the draft Manual reproduced in the information Document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.2 which were both made available on REMPEC website.

19 Mr Arnaud Guena presented the main objective of the Manual to provide operational guidance for first responders and decision makers on marine incidents involving HNS: preparedness and response phases. Mr Guena detailed the phases of drafting the Manual from April 2019 to October 2020, the consultation process highlighting the contribution of the three Secretariats and the Contracting Parties of the three regions individually and through their respective meetings: the 13th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, June 2019), the 27th meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group (Denmark, February 2020) and the OTSOPA 2020 online meeting (May 2020).

20 Addressing the structure of the Manual, Mr Giraud presented its three parts including seven narrative chapters, operational sheets which provide easily accessible and useful information for responders, decision makers and annexes: providing general information and regional specificities on the three regions (Mediterranean, Baltic, North Sea). He concluded with the remaining inputs to finalise the Manual: the completion of the annexes on regional specificities reproduced in document REMPEC/WG.47/3 and the integration of the last case studies. He also clarified the way forward for the approval and adoption of the Manual by the regional Secretariats and contracting parties in 2021.

21 Mr Helavuori introduced the second presentation related to the activity: Update and upgrade of MIDSIS TROCS aiming at producing a new version of the previous MIDSIS TROCS 3.0 developed in 2010 by REMPEC. He also recalled the link between the new MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 and the Marine HNS response manual – Multi regional, Bonn Agreement; HELCOM, REMPEC.

22 Mr Helavuori gave the floor to Ms Phyllis Therdrois, Junior Programme Officer (VIS), REMPEC. She presented the new MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 (currently under progress), which is to deliver a free and publicly available decision support tool which will be accessible by responders anywhere with or without internet. She followed with background information on its development based on the previous MIDSIS-TROCS 3.0. Ms Therdrois highlighted that MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 database is being updated in cooperation with international partners with new information on chemical and emergency guides, integrated with the chemical database developed under former DG ECHO-funded project HNS-MS. MIDSIS TROCS 4.0 will also integrate Manual Fiches in the upgraded decision support trees feature. The presentation was followed by a short Demo to illustrate the data-structure and interface of MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0.

23 About MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0, Mr Guéna confirmed that the database initiated by Cedre was continuously enriched with new products tested at sea within different projects funded by DG ECHO. Following HNS MS project, new products were added respectively within MARPOCS and HAZRUNOFF Projects. Thanks to West MOPoCo this database will not only be connected but merged with the MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 database. Finally, it will be enriched with new substances in the new project MANIFEST also funded by DG ECHO.

24 The representatives from REMPEC, the Secretariat of the Bonn Agreement and the Chair of HELCOM Response Group congratulated the drafting team of the Manual and reminded of the contribution of their Members to the Manual throughout the consultation process.

25 The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop under this session are reported in **Annex IV** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 4: MEDITERRANEAN COMMON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (SESSION 2)

26 Mr Gonzalez gave the floor to Mr Rani Amir, Director of Marine and Coastal Environment Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection Division, Israel who introduced the Session 2 entitled “**Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean**”.

27 Mr Amir recalled that the establishment of a Common Emergency Communication System for the whole Mediterranean would conclude a long process aiming at providing a common and unique solution applicable to all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to communicate in the case of emergency using a single system rather than using different unconnected systems. Currently two systems are in use, the SafeSeaNet / Common Emergency Communication, and Information System (CECIS) Marine Pollution (MP) applications provided by the European Union and the Emergency Communication Procedure set-up in accordance with articles 5 and 8 of the 1990 OPRC Convention and articles 7 and 12 of the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol.

28 Mr Amir then invited Mr Malek Smaoui Programme Officer (OPRC) from REMPEC to introduce the consultation process and the proposed way forward for the establishment of a Common Emergency Communication System for the whole Mediterranean (the System). He also referred to the working Document REMPEC/WG.47/4 and the Synthesis of the survey for the establishment of the System reproduced in the Information Document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.4.

29 Addressing the consultation process, Mr Smaoui started his presentation recalling the findings of the 11th and 13th Focal Points Meeting (May 2015 and June 2019), the Specific Objective 19 and 21 of the Regional Strategy 2016-2021, the Inter-Secretariat Meeting HELCOM, Bonn Agreement, REMPEC, EMSA and DG ECHO (February 2017) and the Regional CECIS Workshop organised within the WestMOPoCo project in Brussels, Belgium (2019) all calling for the development a single system and interconnect data to facilitate emergency communications.

30 He followed with the outputs of the Survey for the establishment of the System (June 2020) recommended by Brussels' Workshop and developed by REMPEC among the OPRC Focal Points and members of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) in June 2020 and its Synthesis developed by REMPEC in September 2020. He then summarised the results of the Survey: Part 1 background information on the current state of play in the Mediterranean and improvements of the communication in case of emergency, and Part 2 that listed the operational, legal, technical, administrative needs, requirements, and expectations of the Contracting Parties from the System. He concluded with the recommendations of the Survey for the way forward: envisage the use of CECIS MP with the possibility for third countries to use CECIS MP through direct expression of interest addressed to DG ECHO. Also the option of enabling connection to CECIS MP via REMPEC, the main suggested options for the establishment of the System and proposed actions to be implemented at the national and regional levels.

31 Mr Amir commented that only 12 respondents out of 21 participated in the Survey, he highlighted the usefulness of the picture provided by the Survey and mentioned that so far, the existing system of notification via REMPEC had worked well during incidents in Israel.

32 Various delegations stressed on the importance of not creating additional reporting obligations, and the need to clarify requirements for the interconnection of European and REMPEC's databases. The representative from one delegation enquired whether access to CECIS Marine Pollution for third countries would not only include requests for assistance but also the first phase of POLREP, to confirm that the system suggested would provide everything that REMPEC Focal Points decided to achieve through REMPEC's system.

33 Addressing this matter, the representative from DG ECHO recalled that currently CECIS MP offers all 3 POLREPS options and that EU Member states have to use SafeSeaNet to report incidents, while other third countries do not have this obligation but have difficulty as SSN does not transmit information to third countries unless registered. She detailed two options for the Mediterranean: either to use both systems like EU Member states (both opened), or if too complex use CECIS MP only but register to SafeSeaNet to receive information about the incidents.

34 The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop under this session are reported in **Annex IV** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND COOPERATION (SESSION 3)

Session 3.1 Study on Synergy between the three subregional agreements

35 Mr Gonzalez gave the floor to Ms. Naoual Zoubair *Chef du Service Littoral Département de l'Environnement Ministère de l'Energie, des Mines et de l'Environnement*, Morocco to introduce the session 3.1 where the West MOPoCo Project deliverable namely: **Study on Synergy between the three subregional agreements** will be presented.

36 Ms Zoubair pointed out the importance of this activity which the ultimate goal was to identify synergies in the implementation of the three subregional contingency plans in force in the West Mediterranean region namely: the RAMOGEPOL (1993) between France, Italy and Monaco; the Lion plan between France and Spain (2002); and the South-Western Mediterranean Plan between Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia (2005). The objective was to provide new opportunities for cooperation between the Parties to these plans and to propose ways to put these synergies into practice. She mentioned that the study is reproduced as appendix to the document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.5.

37 Ms. Zoubair invited Ms. Marie-Sophie Dufau-Richet who is in charge of the marine pollution, prevention, and response mission at SGMer to present the Study and proposed ways to put this synergy into practice.

38 Ms Dufau-Richet first thanked the Consultant hired to support SGMer in developing the Study for the professionalism shown during the drafting process of the Study and then highlighted the main outcomes of the Study. This Study sets out results of interest to the countries concerned and all riparian states, in particular the Parties to other agreements in place or under development and also provides recommendations for possible follow-up at the subregional and regional levels. The Study proposes a comparative analysis of the three sub-regional agreements and plans operating in an embedded legal framework particularly that of the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol. The Study provides 18 recommendations for synergetic actions through national procedures allowing the offer of assistance, the harmonization of communication systems and the enhancement of the interoperability and capabilities.

39 Ms Dufau-Richet appointed the necessity of setting up a common pool of equipment through the preparation and sharing of equipment and experts' inventories that can be offered as assistance, the update of the list of contact details of the competent authorities, the development of common response policies and strategies and of mutual assistance guidelines. She also highlighted the importance of a Secretariat to facilitate the organisation of joint activities and communication with REMPEC and the need to clarify financial issues. Finally, she identified meetings and joint exercises especially tabletop exercises as simple and necessary first steps to increase mutual knowledge and thus overcome communication obstacles that may hamper the implementation of synergetic activities.

40 Ms. Zoubair thanked Ms. Dufau-Richet and invited the participants, particularly the members of the three subregional agreements and contingency plans to comment on the presentation and the proposed follow-up actions. Ms. Zoubair, as the representative of Morocco and of the Secretariat of the South-Western Mediterranean Agreement, for the current period gave her views on the subject to initiate the discussion with the other Parties to the subregional agreements.

41 Participants expressed their appreciation for this innovative activity of the project, discussed the main findings of the Study and stressed the importance of the integration of sub-regional agreements and plans in national pollution response systems. Based on the experience of the RAMOGE Secretariat, the Meeting identified the existence of a Secretariat as a key element for the successful implementation of the plan. A representative from REMPEC recalled that the conclusions from the Study may apply to other sub-regions and recommended the organization of joint exercises or participation of observers to increase mutual knowledge, including at the operational level where communications must be fluid.

42 Participants recognized the creation of a common pool of expertise and equipment as a desirable outcome, although financial implications would need to be clarified. The representative from DG ECHO stated that request for assistance through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) in DG ECHO, can include mobilisation of equipment from EMSA's network of equipment and storage capacity for European area and its neighbourhood and from capacities owned by Member States.

43 The representative from RAMOGE Secretariat also highlighted the need to better address HNS pollution in sub-regional plans, in synergy with the development of the West MOPoCo Marine HNS

response manual – Multi regional, Bonn Agreement; HELCOM, REMPEC and the work of other Regional Secretariats.

Session 3.2 Manuals on National mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and experts in case of emergency

44 Mr Gonzalez gave the floor to Mr Mevric Zammit, Deputy Head of Marine Operations and Incident Response, Ports and Yachting Directorate Malta who introduced session 3.2 where the West MOPoCo Project deliverable: **Manuals on National mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and experts in case of emergency** will be presented.

45 Mr Zammit introduced the process which led to the development of six National manuals by Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Spain, and Tunisia to highlight opportunities for the capitalisation and adaptation of this experience at the regional level. Before giving the floor Mr Zammit referred to the working Document REMPEC/WG.47/5/2 and indicated that the developed national manuals have not been reproduced in the said document to respect the confidentiality of this exercise. He then invited Mr Malek Smaoui, Programme Officer (OPRC) from REMPEC to introduce this notable activity of the Project.

46 Mr Smaoui started his presentation recalling the Article 6 of the OPRC Convention on the establishment by the Contracting Parties of a “A minimum level of pre-positioned oil spill combating equipment, commensurate with the risk involved, and programmes for its use”. That in the absence of definition of a minimum standard or an appropriate methodology to be used in determining equipment levels, the initiative to develop a Manual on national mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and experts in case of emergency would assist the Contracting Parties to comply with the OPRC Convention requirement. The project partners Cedre, ISPRA, ITOP as well as REMPEC and SGMer prepared a template of the Manual, annexed to the working Document REMPEC/WG.47/5/2 to facilitate the development of national Manuals providing an overview of the availability of response equipment and experts at the national and outlining national mechanisms for the mobilisation of supporting equipment through bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements; cooperation arrangements.

47 The development of the six National Manuals : Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Spain and Tunisia provided the list and details on the equipment available within States’ capabilities, the procedures to mobilize those that can be provided individually or in cooperation with the oil and shipping industries, port authorities and other relevant entities as well as in cooperation with neighboring countries through Sub-regional arrangements and contingency plans and also multilateral cooperation through REMPEC, EMSA, UCPM or provision of services of Private providers. The representatives of the six countries insisted on the importance of the Manual as it revealed gaps and areas of improvements such as:

- The absence or irregular update of the databases, i.e., Country Profile and MEDGIS-MAR, that may affect the responsiveness of operation in case of emergency, when such means are required.
- The use of a traditional form in word format combined with external support (consultant) allowed countries to centralize the information and update the relevant reporting system referred above and decentralize the information on procedures related to the mobilization of response equipment and expert.
- The assistance of consultant provided useful questions and support, pointing at gaps identified within this activity and encouraged different authorities and stakeholders to participate in the development of the Manual.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop under these two sessions are reported in **Annex IV** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLANNING AND READINESS MANAGEMENT (SESSION 4)

48 Mr Gonzalez gave the floor to Mr Ezio Amato, *Dirigente Tecnologo, Responsabile Area-emergenze-ambientali-in-mare* at ISPRA Italy, who introduced Session 4 entitled “**Synthesis of the**

Outcomes of the assessments of the national Oil spill response preparedness programmes of the West MOPoCo countries”.

49 Mr Amato recalled that this last session would focus on the presentation of the result of a process initiated in April 2019 with the Sub regional workshop that enabled the adoption of a harmonised methodology for the assessment of Oil Spill Response management and the acquisition of the knowledge on the use of the related readiness evaluation tool and manual. This workshop was followed by national workshops that enabled the development for the first time in the Mediterranean of seven national self-assessments reports. Their results can benefit not only at national level but also at regional level.

50 Mr Ezio Amato then invited Ms Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec and Ms. Julke Brandt from ITOPF Limited to introduce the Assessment Process conducted under the West MOPoCo project and the needs to support and extend this ambitious activity at the level of the Region. Before giving the floor, Mr Ezio Amato referred to the Information Document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.6 related to the report of the sub-regional workshop on the use of the readiness evaluation tool for oil spills held in Malta in April 2019 available on the REMPEC website.

51 Representatives from ITOPF presented the main outcomes of the national assessment workshops including the recommendations detailed in REMPEC/WG.47/INF.7. Although the tool can be improved to better fit government organisations and policy options participants to the national workshop recommend its use. Ms Nicolas-Kopec recommended *inter alia* the assistance of an external consultant in the conduct of the national workshops and the development of a tool dedicated to HNS and confirmed the availability of ITOPF to further assist countries in the next steps of revision of their NCPs.

52 Mr Amato gave the floor to Mr Khedhira, representative of National Environment Protection Agency of Tunisia to present a case study on their experience of conducting the evaluation of the planning and preparedness in the harbour of Rades la Goulette. Using the tool helped NEPA in its role of assessing authority on Ports as it provided needed support to administrations responsible for the assessment of plans that lack the technical capacity to do so and encouraged port authorities to improve their plan.

53 Mr Amato concluded that the role of REMPEC should be reinforced to reach a common level of political strength and preparedness and that a reflection on other types of pollution emergency not related to oil or HNS such as waste should be initiated.

54 Representatives from Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain, and Tunisia shared their experience in the development of their national self-assessments using the Readiness evaluation tool and the outcomes of their national workshops. They highlighted the structured assessment process that the tool and accompanying manuals provide as well as the breadth and depth of topics on oil spill preparedness and readiness capabilities that the tool covers. The assessment workshops contributed to the missions of the national authorities of West MOPoCo countries in the mandatory revision of national plans and allowed them to gather information through the participation of all relevant administrations. The representative from Malta informed the meeting that the report was presented to the President of Malta and was a significant step in securing the financial and political commitments for the completion of the OPRC legislation and planning. They also noted the limitations of the tool when assessing components of national system, which are sometimes complex and assesses the level of preparedness at the strategic level only which should be completed by the assessment of operational aspects and effective capacity to respond. West MOPoCo representatives also insisted on the importance of implementing the recommendations from the tool to improve the national system.

55 The representative from REMPEC reminded that REMPEC was attempting to conduct such a harmonized assessment in the Mediterranean and would pursue efforts to support similar workshops in other parts of the Mediterranean. A representative from Israel confirmed that the Eastern Mediterranean trilateral agreement could benefit from this tool and urged REMPEC to include it in the next Biennium.

56 Responding to a request from a representative from Israel, a representative of ITOPF reminded the meeting of Guidelines published by IMO in 2019 on practical method for the implementation of the OPRC Convention and 2000 OPRC-HNS Protocol.

57 A representative from IOSC informed the Meeting that the tool was widely used around the world and getting a lot of traction and that a revision of the tool was under way including an upgrade of the knowledge base that underpins the tool (Manual) and of the interface of the tool.

58 The conclusions and recommendations of the Workshop under this session are reported in **Annex IV** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

59 Mr Gonzalez invited the Workshop to review paragraph by paragraph the draft conclusions and recommendations and to comment as deemed appropriate.

The rapporteur of each Session presented the findings of their respective session and the conclusions and recommendations which are reported in **Annex IV** to the present Report.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

60 The Chairperson closed the Workshop at 12:30 hours on Wednesday, 28 October 2020.

ANNEX (E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

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Préfecture maritime de la Méditerranée

Mr Ludovic Schultz

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Mr George Koukas

Rapporteur

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Mr Dimitrios Stringlis

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ANNEX(E) II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Workshop
2. Organisation of the Workshop and adoption of the Agenda
3. Enhancing emergency decision-making capabilities
4. Mediterranean Common Emergency Communication System
5. Emergency procedures and cooperation
6. Assessment of the level of oil spill response planning and readiness management
7. Conclusions and Recommendations
8. Closure of the Workshop

ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.47/2	Provisional agenda
REMPEC/WG.47/3	Draft multi-regional HNS response manual (Version October 2020)
REMPEC/WG.47/4	Survey on option to set up the Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean – Synthesis and Roadmap
REMPEC/WG.47/5/1	Report of the Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans
REMPEC/WG.47/5/2	Template of the National manuals on mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and experts in case of Emergency - Evaluation of the pilot actions (the seven Manuals) within the West MOPoCo Project

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

REMPEC/WG.47/INF.1	List of Documents
REMPEC/WG.47/INF.2	Provisional list of participants
REMPEC/WG.45/INF.3	List of participants
REMPEC/WG.47/INF.4	Report of the CECIS Marine Pollution workshop for the Mediterranean countries (Brussels, Belgium – 22-23 October 2019)
REMPEC/WG.47/INF.5	Report of the Sub-Regional Workshop on the use of the Readiness Evaluation Tool for the assessment of the national oil spill preparedness and response programs

ANNEX IV

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

AGENDA ITEM 3: ENHANCING EMERGENCY DECISION-MAKING CAPABILITIES

(SESSION 1)

1. In light of the developments for the preparation of the Marine HNS response manual – Multi regional, Bonn Agreement; HELCOM, REMPEC, and the Maritime Integrated Decision Support Information System on Transport of Chemical Substances (MIDSIS TROCS 4.0), **the Workshop:**
 1. **Acknowledged** the **valuable** inter-regional approach and contribution of the Contracting Parties to Barcelona Convention, Bonn Agreement and HELCOM and the respective Secretariats.
 2. **Recognised** that the Manual was very comprehensive with 3 parts including narrative with 7 chapters, operational sheets, and annexes which provide easily accessible and useful information for responders and decision makers.
 3. **Welcomed** the capitalization of decision support tools co-financed by DG ECHO and the integration in MIDSIS-TROCS of existing databases such as HNS-MS or ongoing and future projects (e.g., MANIFEST).
 4. **Took note** of the integration of the response flowcharts of the Manual in MIDSIS-TROCS decision support trees; and
 5. **Noted** that relevant technical and governing bodies which have the mandate to adopt the Marine HNS Response Manual Multi-Regional will be provided with the version published within the framework of the West MOPoCo.
2. Recognising the importance of the Manual and the Tool, **the Workshop:**
 1. **Invited** Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, HELCOM and the Bonn Agreement to review and provide comments as appropriate on the final version to be submitted early 2021 before its publication by the end of March 2021 to avoid variation between the version adopted in the Mediterranean, Baltic, and North Sea by:
 - Providing input on regional specificities, case studies and relevant weblinks to be included in the Annex to the Manual.
 - Submitting high resolution missing pictures identified in the list to be disseminated to Contracting Parties through the respective Secretariat.
 2. **Suggested** a testing phase of MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Bonn Agreement and HELCOM.
 3. **Highlighted** the following needs to facilitate the use of the manual and MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0 by responders:
 - Training on the techniques described in the Manual and on the use of MIDSIS-TROCS 4.0.
 - Translation in French and other languages as required.
 - Wide dissemination to the responder community including civil protection addressing shoreline pollution.

AGENDA ITEM 4: MEDITERRANEAN COMMON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

(SESSION 2)

3. In light of the developments and activities carried out for the establishment of a Common emergency communication system for the Mediterranean since the 13th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, June 2019), **the Workshop**:
 1. **Acknowledged** the relevance of the outcomes of the West MOPoCo project activities to progress in the setup of the System namely the Regional workshop in Brussels, the Survey among the Countries, and its synthesis.
 2. **Considered** with high interest the outcomes of the Survey, completed the OPRC Focal Points and the members of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) for the establishment of a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean (June 2020) and its synthesis made by REMPEC (September 2020).
 3. **Recognized** the necessity to adopt, as soon as possible, a Common Emergency Communication System for the whole Mediterranean,
4. Considering the above, **the workshop**:
 1. **Agreed** to move on steps to start building the Common system in preparation of the 14th focal points meeting for approval and implementation.
 2. **Requested**, REMPEC and DG-ECHO to assist the Mediterranean coastal States to establish the Communication system, and the West MOPOCo team to assist with the follow-up of IT development within the project and the experts from REMPEC, ISPRA, and Cedre to prepare the specifications of the System should the remaining time available before the end of the project and the funds be sufficient.
 3. **Agreed** that the Common system will be based on the recommendations of the 13th Focal Points Meeting (Malta, June 2019), the Regional CECIS Workshop (Belgium, October 2019), the findings of the Survey (June 2020) and the present Workshop:
 - Maintain SafeSeaNet and REMPEC emergency line (email and phone) for notification of incidents.
 - Avoid parallel communication systems and encourage non-EU countries to use CECIS MP that provides for a “Mediterranean” restricted area with the possibility to open communication with other EU Member States or “Regional Agreements”.
 - No additional cost for Contracting Parties for the development, maintenance and use of a dedicated “Mediterranean” area under CECIS MP.
 - Integrate and ensure online completion of POLREP and R&O of assistance Forms.
 - Maintain database of the EU on CECIS MP and provide access to MEDGIS-MAR (equipment) through a link on CECIS MP platform.
 - Ensure compatibility of any other communication system with CECIS MP.
 - Consider the requirements and obligations to EU Member States in relation with each of the above options.

AGENDA ITEM 5: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND COOPERATION

(SESSION 3.1)

Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans

5. Stressing the importance of this activity which capitalizes on the existing institutional frameworks that have created sub-regional agreements and emergency plans to create new opportunities for cooperation between the members of these sub-regional agreements, **the Workshop**:
 1. **Appreciated** the opportunity offered by project to set up synergies between the existing Sub-regional agreements and plans for more cooperation and sharing of knowledge and resources.

6. In light of the above, **the Workshop**:

1. **Agreed** with the main outcomes of the Study on synergy between the three sub-regional agreements and contingency plans.
2. **Encouraged** the Parties members of the three agreements and plans to take steps towards the implementation of immediate opportunities of synergy by organising joint meetings of responsible national authorities and mutual invitations as observers during exercises and aerial surveillance operations, to increase the level of mutual knowledge and understanding between national authorities and national response systems and ensure a constant operational dialogue.
3. **Noticed** that there is still room for improvement in interoperability and mutual knowledge between the plans (content, contacts, functions etc.).
4. **Underlined** the importance of having a secretariat in each sub-regional plan, drawing on the experience of the secretariat of the RAMOGE agreement.
5. **Recognized** that several recommendations may also apply to other parts of the Mediterranean and that the outcomes of the Synergy study should be presented to the 14th Meeting of REMPEC's Focal Points, in view of taking steps towards the creation of a network of sub-regional agreements and plans across the Mediterranean.

(SESSION 3.2)

Manuals on National mechanisms for the mobilization of response equipment and experts in case of emergency

7. **Stressing** the importance of the manual, **the Workshop**:

1. **Acknowledged** the valuable contribution of the project partners in developing the Template of the Manuals.
2. **Appreciated** that in addition to the practical aspects, the Manuals enabled decentralisation of information on response equipment and expertise and on mobilisation procedures which may affect the responsiveness of operation, when such means are required.
3. **Considered** the activity a fruitful experience which allowed to identify gaps and areas of improvement to gather information scattered across different actors and stakeholders and provided the opportunity to update current databases and to raise awareness about response issues across national stakeholders.
4. **Stressed** the importance of the support provided by the national consultants to develop the manual and compile information.

8. **Recognizing** this innovative approach and methodology in determining response equipment mobilization, **the Workshop**:

1. **Agreed** on the Template for the development of the Manuals on national mechanism for the mobilization of response equipment and experts in case of emergency, annexed to the document REMPEC/WG.47/5/2.
2. **Trusted** REMPEC to make the necessary improvements on this Template with the following improvement:
 - resume the introductory paragraphs of the tables of part 1 and 2 of the template.
 - adapt the format of the tables to those used in MEDGIS-MAR and Country profile databases.
 - revise the insertion of the links to these data bases in the template.

- replace the indicative table of the response equipment annexed to the template, with a simple list of the response equipment and field of expertise.
- 3. **Invited** REMPEC to submit the revised version of the Template to the 14th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for endorsement.
- 4. **Suggested** that regular submission, every two years of pre-filled country profile and equivalent forms, could be beneficial to individual countries and the region to ensure compliance with the reporting obligations and operationalization of the tools made available to the Contracting Parties.
- 5. **Encouraged** all Contracting Parties to work on the development of their respective Manual.
- 6. **Requested** REMPEC to ensure the availability of funds to assist countries to develop their first Manuals and consequently update their Country Profile and MEDGIS-MAR databases.
- 7. **Suggested** to propose recommendations on the use of the Manuals for further discussion at the 14th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ASSESSMENT OF THE LEVEL OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLANNING AND READINESS MANAGEMENT

(SESSION 4)

- 9. Stressing the importance of introducing a harmonized and practical methodology for the evaluation of the level of preparedness for Oil spills and providing a programme of improvements would be beneficial at both national and regional levels, **the Workshop**:
 - 1. **Recognized** the practicability of the Readiness evaluation tool for oil spill and its accompanying manuals and the opportunity that it gives to the region if applied by the whole Mediterranean Coastal states to further improve the response capacities and cooperation to respond to oil spill pollution.
 - 2. **Appreciated** the structured assessment processes of the tool and accompanying manuals provide and the breadth and depth of topics on oil spill preparedness and readiness capabilities the tool covers.
 - 3. **Took note** with high interest of the findings and outcomes of the seven self-assessments and the workshops made by project beneficiaries, the first ever realized in the Mediterranean region.
 - 4. **Noticed** also the outcomes of the experience of Tunisia consisting of the use of the tool to assess the readiness to respond to oil spills at the level of Rades Harbor.
 - 5. **Appreciated** the organisation on Q1 2021 by REMPEC of a sub-regional workshop on the use of the Readiness evaluation tool for Oil spills in Albania for the Countries of the central and east Mediterranean.
- 10. Recognizing the importance of the tool, **the Workshop**:
 - 1. **Encouraged** the Contracting Parties to integrate the use of the readiness evaluation tool in their programme of activities in relation with the preparedness for and response to oil marine pollution.
 - 2. **Requested** REMPEC to assist the Contracting Parties to develop their self-assessment using the Tool.

3. **Requested** REMPEC to task the MTWG to proceed with exercises to test the results of the use of the Tool.

4. **Stressed on** the necessity to take in consideration in the above the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report on 'Outcomes of the self-assessments of the National Oil Spill Response Preparedness Programmes of Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia using the Readiness evaluation tool for Oil spills', annexed to the document REMPEC/WG.47/INF.7.