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

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MEDEXPOL 2013,  
Workshop on the Regional Response Capacity and Coordination  
to Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea

Athens, Greece, 10-12 December 2013

REMPEC/WG.34/21  
Date: 24 January 2014

Original: English

**REPORT**  
**OF THE OF THE WORKSHOP ON**  
**THE REGIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY AND COORDINATION TO MAJOR OIL SPILL**  
**IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (MEDEXPOL 2013)**

**Athens, Greece, 10-12 December 2013**



## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Workshop on Regional Response Capacity and Co-ordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2013) was held in Athens, Greece between the 10 and 12 December 2013.

2. The Workshop was organized by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) in cooperation with the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) and the Global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues (IPIECA). The Workshop was co-financed by the International Maritime Organization's Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme (IMO ITCP), the United Nations Environment Programme – Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP) through its Mediterranean Trust Fund and the EU funded Ecosystem Approach (ECAP), as well as MOIG and IPIECA.

3. As announced at the 1st Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on the Offshore Protocol held in Malta between 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013, MEDEXPOL 2013 addressed contingency planning and response operations in case of an offshore incident as well as progress made in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12.

4. The principal objectives of the Workshop were:

- a) To review regional arrangements and policies related to response and cooperation to major oil spill incidents in the Mediterranean Region;
- b) To examine the identified recognized international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
- c) To review the assessment and analysis of the existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities; and
- d) To provide recommendations to be considered when drafting the Action Plan requested by Decision IG.20/12

## **2. ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### **2.1 Speakers**

5. To achieve the objectives outlined above, the agenda was prepared by REMPEC in cooperation with IPIECA. A total of twenty-one (21) speakers from Governments, United Nations Organizations, European and public Institutions, Universities and private companies contributed to this event providing specific presentations.

### **2.2 Participants**

6. All Mediterranean countries were invited to nominate in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Workshop. The invitation to attend the event was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, the international professional organizations and associations, whose activities are relevant for the objectives of the Workshop as well as to the oil industry sector through MOIG.

7. A total of seventy-five (75) participants including thirty-nine (39) representatives from seventeen (17) Mediterranean coastal States (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey), and thirty-six (36) representatives from the oil industry and response companies participated in the Workshop.

8. The final list of participants is reproduced in **Annex I** to the present report.

### **2.3 Material**

9. The Workshop was divided in four (4) sessions on Monitoring, Spill Response Techniques and Equipment, Coordination and on the Offshore Protocol. The final annotated agenda of the Workshop as delivered is reproduced in **Annex II** of the present report.

The list of documents provided to the participants is reported in **Annex III** of the report.

### **3. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING**

10. MEDEXPOL 2013 was held between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013, in the Conference Room of the Radisson Blue Hotel in Athens, Greece, where most of the participants were accommodated.

11. The composition of the secretariat is detailed in **Annex I**.

12. The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting.

#### **Agenda Items 1 & 2: Opening & Organisation of the Meeting**

13. Mr Hébert, Director of REMPEC, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their contribution. He thanked the speakers and the co-organisers for their support in the preparation of the event. He concluded providing an overview of the Workshop and highlighted the objectives and expected outcomes of this event.

14. Mr Kamour, Chairman of MOIG, introduced then Mr Houcine Mejri, new Director of MOIG who thanked the participants and organisers. He reminded the long lasting collaboration between IMO, IPIECA, REMPEC and MOIG, and reminded that this activity was in line with the joint REMPEC - MOIG Mediterranean Government Industry Cooperation Action Plan (MGICAP).

#### **Agenda Item 3: Tier 3 Scenarios**

16. Mr Gonzalez Deogracia, OPRC Programme Officer at REMPEC, introduced two scenarios of major incidents occurring in the Mediterranean region to set the context of the discussions and encourage a dynamic dialogue on practical and operational issues. He highlighted that the scenarios were entirely fictive, not based on any risk assessment in the area concerned and that they should be considered exclusively for the purpose of making the Workshop more lively. One scenario described a blow out from an offshore platform, whilst the other scenario focuses on a tanker incident. The participants were invited to consider these scenarios for the discussions in the following thematic sessions.

### **SESSION 1: TIER 3 MONITORING**

#### **Agenda Item 4: Forecasting platform**

17. Dr De Dominicis, Researcher at the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology – INGV (Italy), introduced the Mediterranean Oceanography Network for the Global Ocean Observing System MOONGOOS and detailed the agreement between the Network and REMPEC. She then presented the Mediterranean Decision Support System for Marine Safety Project (MEDESS-4MS), a regional service combining the well-established Mediterranean models and data for the oil spill forecasting, gathered in a web-interface including a Geographical Information System. She concluded presenting the results of the forecasting model for the workshop tanker incident scenario.

18. Mr Zodiatis, Researcher at the University of Cyprus, introduced the oil spill prediction system MEDSLIK, also included in the MEDESS-4MS system. He then presented the results of the forecasting model (MEDSLIK) for the workshop blowout scenario and highlighted the importance of high resolution data to reach a more reliable forecast.

19. To present the industry forecasting model capacity, Mr Harrington-Missin from Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) provided the results of the simulations on the workshop blowout scenario using private forecasting model, emphasizing the influence of sub-sea dispersant. The Workshop was informed that the environmental data used for the simulation were provided by the University of Cyprus to be able to compare the model results.

20. The participants concluded the agenda item 4 with the following remarks:

- It was emphasised that forecasting models should be used with caution and should be validated by observation;
- Mediterranean coastal States whose meteorological and oceanographic national institutions are not yet part of MOONGOOS should seriously consider joining the network;
- The availability of high resolution data for the Mediterranean region through MOONGOOS and MEDESS-4MS was acknowledged. The industry sector was invited to consider a cooperative approach to benefit from this data access.

**Agenda Item 5: Satellite oil spill monitoring**

21 Mr Pedrosa Rey, Head of Pollution Response Division of the Spanish Merchant Shipping Directorate summarized the Spanish procedures to access satellite images to monitor oil spills, and highlighted the main entities involved in the mobilization of the necessary means, in case of an emergency.

22. Mr Sheta, Environmental Crisis Manager from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) presented the acquisition process of satellite image in Egypt, in case of major oil spill.

23. Mr Bjorgo, from UNOSAT, presented from Geneva, through video conference, the satellite analysis services of his Organization and the possible access to satellite images through the activation of the International Charter Space for Major Disasters. He reminded that UNOSAT is the Operational Satellite applications programme under the umbrella of the UN Institute for training and research (UNITAR) and that the charter was based on the voluntary providing of images by companies operating satellites and was to be used only for the immediate response phase to a disaster. He also reminded participants that there was an “authorised user” identified in the countries. He illustrated the services with simulated oil spill images in the context of the scenarios proposed for the Workshop.

24. Mr Bal, Head of Department Operations at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), introduced the European satellite oil pollution CleanSeaNet as well as other vessel detection and monitoring systems made available by the Agency. He also explained the procedure to access, through the European Emergency Response and Coordination Centre (ERCC), the Agency services for EU and non-EU Member States.

25. The participants concluded the agenda item 5 with the following remarks:

- Following request of clarification from the participants, it was confirmed that following the adoption of the new mandate of the Agency, EMSA’s services are available for all Mediterranean coastal States including EU and non-EU Member States;
- Competent authorities in charge of oil spill response should be informed about the various sources of satellite data from government, UNOSAT, EMSA, the oil industry and universities and the respective procedures to access these images. Participants were invited to inform their competent authorities in return to their countries.

**SESSION 2: TIER 3 SPILL RESPONSE TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**

**Agenda Item 6: Well Capping System**

26. To illustrate the well capping technology, Mr Dahlstlett, Base Manager at OSRL Norway Limited, was invited to inform the participants on OSRL’s Subsea Well Response Project and Services and the challenges related to subsea well control incidents. He explained the deployment procedures of the well capping device and highlighted the mobilization time frame in the context of the workshop’s blowout scenario. He, in particular highlighted that the “incident owner” was responsible for the on-site deployment and use of the device

27. Several suggestions and remarks were made by the participants and the speaker:

- Stand-by vessel and unloading/loading equipment should be considered locally for technical and economic reasons;
- The required customs procedures and regulations could be reviewed to increase the effectiveness of the deployment of the capping system;
- Well Capping System should be considered as a last and short term solution to stop the leaks. Other tools such as relief wells should be considered;
- It was noted that other private companies were offering similar systems;
- The operator is responsible to for the training of the technical team in charge of the deployment of the well capping system;
- Cooperation between well capping system providers and local industries should be considered to assess the required capacity building;
- When granting the authorization regulators may consider requesting access to this tool and the necessary logistical arrangements.

**Agenda Item 7: At sea recovery**

28. Mr Hébert gave an overview of the topics to be taken into account for the mobilisation of means and at sea recovery (i.e. towing vessels, recovery vessels, at sea storage capacity, unloading capacity and oil treatment on shore). He illustrated the towing vessel capacity in the areas concerned by the workshop scenarios and made reference to the EU-financed SafeMed Project report on Emergency towing arrangements in the Mediterranean Sea:

<http://www.safemedproject.org/documents/safemed-l-documents/3.3-o-emergency-towing-arrangements/view> ). He further reminded the existence of the online Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool which could assist Mediterranean coastal States in developing their national oil spill waste management plan.

29. In the context of the workshop scenarios, Mr Pedrosa and Mr Sheta presented respectively the Spanish and Egyptian Contingency Plan and National Response System in place.

30. The following points were highlighted during the discussions:

- Containment and recovery should be considered in combination with other response tools as many factors can limit the efficiency of the techniques;
- The importance of external resources to ensure the mobilisation of means in case of a major spill was underlined;
- Vessel of opportunities and local alternatives may be considered to increase the response capacity to major pollutions. The required specialised equipment and expertise and training programme for vessels of opportunities crews should also be assessed;
- Ensure that Regional agreement and International Assistance procedures are in place in case of a major oil spill
- Countries which did not submit the response equipment inventory forms in the framework of the Project MEDESS-4MS were invited to send them to REMPEC at their earliest convenience;
- Participants were also invited to use the online Mediterranean Oil Spill Waste Management Decision Support Tool and provide their feedback.

**Agenda Item 8: In-situ Burning**

31. Dr Jezequel, Chemical Engineer at the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) delivered a presentation on current studies on In Situ Burning (ISB), following the Deep Water Horizon (DPH) Incident. He underlined that ISB would be more suitable on a blow-out scenario than on an oil spill from vessel as there is a constant input of fresh oil which could be more easily inflamed. Although some reports on the use of ISB during the

Macondo incident state that 80% of the product was burnt, leaving only 20 % of burnt residues, he stated that, according to CEDRE's current experiments, a ratio 60/40 was the maximum they have reached to date. As the air pollution impact of this technique was mentioned, he informed the meeting that official reports valued this impact to the equivalent of one year emission from the ships usually sailing through the Gulf of Mexico area. He also informed the participants that the results of the study would be made publically available in 2014.

32. Mr. Gonzalez Corbal, Head of Unit for Coastal Protection from the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain, and Mr Sheta presented the view of Spain and Egypt on the use of ISB. In both countries, ISB is not considered within their respective legislation but could be considered as a potential technique following an impact assessment on the use of this technique.

33. Discussions on ISB concluded with the following remarks:

- More information should be made available on this technique and its potential impact to enable countries to assess the suitability of ISB as a possible response technique within their "tool box"; As for other techniques it should be considered after a proper net environmental benefit analysis (NEBA) has been conducted
- Cedre's results from the study should be disseminated
- More R&D and implication from the universities
- Additional studies on recovery and residual waste disposal should be considered;
- The use of such technique with potential impact to neighbouring countries would require further consideration at sub-regional and regional level;
- ISB need similar requirements and right conditions as the containment recovery (weather, vessels of opportunity, booms etc.).

#### **Agenda Item 9: Lessons learnt on extended use of dispersant**

34. Mr Ahnel, Director of Environmental Technology at BP, delivered a presentation on the extended use of dispersants in case of an oil spill, as well as on the main aspects of surface and sub-surface application. He emphasized that the extended use of dispersant was facilitated by the existence of a reliable scientific baseline in the area and a constant monitoring of the effects on several biota during and after the response operations. As regards the sub-sea use, it proved to be very efficient as a response technique.

35. In summary, dispersants are an important part of the oil spill response toolkit; under the appropriate circumstances, dispersant use can reduce safety risks and overall environmental impacts; dispersant selection and application based on science and government approval; pre-planning is very useful; both industry and governments can do further research building on the experiences gained from the DWH response.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Dispersant stockpiles and application means**

36. Mr Nicoll, Advocacy Manager at OSRL, provided an overview on the industry dispersant stockpiles and application means. The efficiency, acceptability and feasibility of the dispersant use were discussed, highlighting that in particular with a ship incident, the time window for the use of dispersant was shorter than for an offshore incident as the natural weathering process of the oil will hinder the effectiveness of this technique

37. Mr Gonzalez Corbal and Mr Sheta introduced the current national regulations on the use of dispersant in Spain and Egypt.

#### **Agenda Item 11: National versus Regional Dispersant Use Policy**

38. Mr Gonzalez Deogracia presented the regional and sub-regional approaches in place in the Mediterranean region on the use of dispersant. He reminded that the Mediterranean Countries agreed on a number of issues related to the use of dispersants in the region and detailed this [approach adopted](#) by the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (UNEP (OCA)/MED IG.3/5, Appendix I, Antalya, Turkey 15 October 1993).

39. Mr Bal introduced EMSA's activities on dispersants including regular inventories, development of the Dispersant Usage Evaluation Tool (DUET) to be disseminated in 2014, the technical correspondence group on dispersant established to review the literature on dispersant and address possible common dispersant testing procedures.

40. Following discussions on dispersants use, participants raised the following questions and remarks:

- There is currently no international testing protocol to choose on a uniformed manner the type of dispersants to be used, depending on the toxicity and efficiency. Despite the difficulties to harmonize such procedures, the participants emphasized the added value of a recognized common approach
- In case of major oil spill, the dispersant will most likely be considered as one a response option. Given the window of opportunity to decide on the use of dispersant, it was recognized that Net Environmental Benefit Analysis and the approval of the required regulations for the use of dispersant would be beneficial before such incident occurs. This element should be reflected in the contingency plans
- It was recommended to involve national environmental agencies in the decision process for the selection of dispersants.
- It was also recommended to:
  - a) To follow-up EU developments on dispersant (DUET, stock piles)
  - b) To consult neighbouring countries on transboundary effects of dispersant use
  - c) To consider policies on use of dispersant within sub-regional plans.

### **SESSION 3 TIER 3 COORDINATION**

#### **Agenda Item 12: Sub-regional, Regional, European, International, industry mechanisms and databases**

41. Ms Charlebois, Senior Technical Officer at the Marine Environment Division of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) introduced the Draft IMO Guidelines on International Offer of Assistance (IOA) which were disseminated to the participants under document REMPEC/WG.34/INF.3.

42. Ms Debling, Programme Officer at the UNEP's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), presented from her office in Geneva, through video conference, the objective of her Organization and introduced the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU) and the requirements for the mobilization of this unit. She then illustrated the involvement of UNEP-OCHA in oil spill incidents.

43. Ms Mackeviciute introduced the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and the next call for proposals, the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) underlining that the access to these mechanisms were enlarged to European Neighbourhood Policy countries.

44. Mr Bal delivered a presentation on EMSA's network of Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels. He presented the vessels and equipment available at EMSA and provided information on the on-going SafeMed III Project.

45. Mr Gonzalez Deogracia recalled the Mediterranean response and coordination mechanisms in place through REMPEC. He reminded the participants the existence of online tools available on REMPEC's website and introduced on-going projects aimed at improving preparedness and response. He invited participants to keep their respective country profile updated.



46. Following these presentations the participants recommended:

- To identify duplication/overlapping/gaps between the EU and Regional level which include inter alia:
- Inventories, activities, reporting
- Projects financed through various funding mechanisms which required more coordination at European and regional level
- To improve cooperation arrangements and synergies between the EU and Regional mechanisms including inter alia:
  - a) Better coordination in case of emergency (e.g. between ERCC and REMPEC)
  - b) Mediterranean decision on integration within CECIS
- To organize a Meeting on EU/BCN Convention coordination to discuss the above issues
- To better identified and integrated shoreline competent authorities in the national overall response system
- To ensure regular communication exercises at regional level

**Agenda Items 13 & 14:**                      **Procedures (offers, processing, evaluation) & Customs, Legal, Financial issues**

47. In view of the overall presentation made on the IAO Guidelines under agenda item 12 and the limited time available to cover the remaining items scheduled, no presentations was delivered on Agenda Item 13 and 14.

**Agenda Item 15:**                              **National and Offshore Contingency Planning and Exercises**

48. Mr Gonzalez Deogracia updated the participants on the status of ratifications of the Emergency Protocol, the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Offshore Protocol. He then reminded the provisions related to the contingency planning stated in these regional instruments and in the other international legal instruments (UNCLOS, OPRC Convention, etc..).

49. Mrs Askalany, Director in Crisis & Continuity Management in BP Egypt, delivered a presentation on the preparedness and response tools and plans developed following the DWH incident.

50. It was recommended to:

- Organize on a regular basis exercises between government and industry;
- Inform and involve REMPEC when countries and industry organise exercises in the Mediterranean

**Agenda Item 16**                              **Conclusions and recommendations**

51. The participants were invited to provide comments and recommendations on the addressed topics during the meeting. The main conclusions and recommendations are captured in the report in the above paragraphs.

## **SESSION 4 THE OFFSHORE PROCOTOL**

### **Agenda Item 17: Progress in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and Decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols**

52. Mr Hébert informed the participants on the current developments regarding the implementation of Contracting Parties Decision IG. 20/8 regarding the Offshore Protocol (OP) to the Barcelona Convention which requested the secretariat to conduct an in depth analysis of the existing situation as regards offshore activities in order to identify possible gaps and to draft an Action Plan for the full implementation of the OP by the Contracting parties. He further informed them of the conclusions of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 18). He reminded the outcome of the First Offshore Protocol Working Group held in Malta between the 13 and 4 June 2013.

53. He referred to the COP's decision related to the establishment of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG) which should support the drafting of the Action plan and serve as a regional technical body to assist in the identification of best practices and to ensure a monitoring and assessment of the impact of these activities consistent with the overall policy adopted within the Mediterranean Action Plan. He further highlighted that the COP decided that "the BARCO OFOG should be financed through extra budgetary resources; and requested the Secretariat to identify international bodies that might provide specific sources of financing to assist Mediterranean Coastal States in carrying out the obligations arising from the Offshore Protocol; and invited the relevant oil and gas offshore industry to assist the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO OFOG), through technical support and financial contributions for the implementation of the program of work that may result from the Offshore Protocol Action Plan". The Decision IG.21/8 on follow up actions regarding Offshore Protocol Action plan reflecting this new developments was distributed to the participants.

### **Agenda Item 18 Liability and compensation**

54. Mr Librando Senior Deputy Director of the Legal affairs and External Relation Division at IMO, informed the participants about recent regulatory developments regarding liability and compensation in case of an oil pollution due to offshore activities. His speech was disseminated under document REMPEC/WG.34/INF.4.

55. Mr Lerede, Syndicate Claims Director at The Standard (P&I) Club, gave a presentation on liabilities and insurance related to risks of offshore operations. He introduced the Oil Pollution Liability Agreement (OPOL) and its application and limits, outlining that no claims has been submitted yet under this scheme. He explained that this was as a direct result of the working mechanism of OPOL which is only called to intervene once the responsible operator has failed to meet the compensation claims which has never happened, as the operators, being major international players, don't want to face a reputational risk by not paying compensation.

56. During the following discussion: participants raised the following questions and remarks:

- Concerning Article 27, the delegation of Cyprus informed the meeting that UK guidelines dealing with the financial security for any damage caused by offshore activities are followed. A legislative act will be soon issued in Cyprus. Reference was made on the document REMPEC/WG.34/INF.10 on "New Challenges in Oil Spill Response for Mediterranean States engaged in Offshore Activities", submitted by the Government of Cyprus;
- Discussions on the compensation threshold took place, highlighting the need for consistency between any future development on the matter at the Mediterranean level and at the EU level as stated in Recital (63) of the Directive 2013/30/EU;
- With the understanding that no consensus has been met at international level to establish a Global compensation regime, participants underlined the risk of having various regional approaches leading to possible discrepancies related to the compensation rules and liabilities;
- A delegation commented that the lack of a uniform regime was seen as a weakness and pointed out that the Mediterranean Coastal States which are represented at the IMO Council should promote together the idea of including this topic on the Strategic Action Plan of the IMO.

**Agenda Item 20**

**Offshore Protocol Questionnaire Analysis**

57. The Agenda Item 20 was introduced before Agenda Item 19 to take into consideration the results of the questionnaire analysis (document REMPEC/WG.34/20) within the presentation of the Offshore best practices review (document REMPEC/WG.34/19).

58. Ms Silva Meijas, Executive Secretary & Coordinator (UNEP/MAP) joined the meeting and reminded the importance the Offshore Protocol Action Plan to implement the required measures to ensure environment protection against possible pollution from offshore activities.

59. The Consultant provided an overall introduction on the studies which results were disseminated to the participants under documents REMPEC/WG.34/19 and REMPEC/WG.34/20.

60. The Consultant, described the objective and method used to perform the requested National Questionnaire Analysis reported in document REMPEC/WG.34/20. He reminded that only 10 Contracting Parties out of 22 responded to the questionnaire. He introduced the results of the analysis underlining regulations in place in EU countries and non EU countries and then compared the provisions of the Offshore Protocol and the EU Directive 2013/30/EU. He concluded describing the identified gaps between the national legislative frameworks and the OP.

61. Mr Hébert invited the national participants to consult the report to ensure that all the existing established regulations and provisions were reported in the analysis.

**Agenda Item 19**

**Offshore Best Practices Review**

62. The Consultant gave an overview of the Best Practices currently in place as reported in the document REMPEC/WG.34/19 examples of best practices from well-established authorities and organisations at international level were provided for each article of the Offshore Protocol. The consultant introduced the various proposed recommendations and invited the participants to provide their comments.

63. The following comments were highlighted by the participants:

- In terms of Safety Zone, the delegation of Cyprus recalled that under UNCLOS it was a prerogative of the Coastal State under which jurisdiction the activity is taking place and that access to such safety zone required the approval from the Department of Merchant Shipping (DMS) for any activity around the drilling unit;
- As regards monitoring systems, the participants recommended to take advantage of the OSPAR Convention experience to support the establishment of a Mediterranean monitoring system;
- Reference was made to the EU Offshore Oil and Gas Authorities Group (EUOAG) and the current discussions on the notification procedures and common EU approach. It was suggested to liaise with the EUOAG to ensure homogeneity of the data provided through the notification.
- It was underlined that some elements on decommissioning were missing from the Offshore Protocol and therefore recommended that:
  - Authorities in charge of granting the authorization should be informed about the possible dismantlement of the installation;
  - A Financial security should be required to ensure the dismantlement of the installation; and
  - Disposal of the waste generated by the dismantling should be included in the waste removal plan
- Participants requested the inclusion of the response capacity of EMSA in the Mutual Assistance part of the Best Practice Analysis Report.
- However the participants were quite overwhelmed by the amount of information contained in the study and pointed out that a comparative analysis would be beneficial for any future consideration in the framework of the Action Plan.
- As regards the regional overview based on the questionnaire the Meeting agreed that there was a need to review the assessment made by the Consultant and also for the countries which have not replied to do so. As such it was not possible to have a regional overview.

#### 4. **CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

64. Taking into consideration the last two comments and the reaction of the participants, and considering the deadline for the finalization of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Offshore Protocol by the end of 2014, a timeline for the definition of the outline and the drafting of the Action Plan was proposed.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action to be taken</b>
End January 2014	REMPEC will disseminate the reviewed recommendations of the Consultant to the Contracting Parties
28 February 2014	Each Contracting Party should consult the relevant competent authorities to provide comments and prioritize the proposed recommendations. The countries feedbacks should be communicated to REMPEC by 28 February 2014.
End-March 2014	The comments and priorities identified by the countries will be compiled and disseminated by REMPEC in a report comprising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the priorities, way-forward and recommendations; and</li><li>• a draft outline of the Action Plan.</li></ul>
June 2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting to discuss priorities and Action Plan outline

65. Mr Hébert concluded the Workshop thanking the participants and facilitators for their contribution, as well as the co-organisers for their involvement and contribution to the preparation of the event.

66. The Workshop was closed at 17.00 on Thursday, 12 December 2013.

**ANNEX (E) I**

**FINAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE FINALE DES PARTICIPANTS**

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## ANNEX II

### ANNOTATED AGENDA

#### Introduction

The Workshop on Regional Response Capacity and Co-ordination for Major Oil Spill in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2013) will be held in Athens, Greece between the 10 and 12 December 2013. As announced at the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on the Offshore Protocol, MEDEXPOL 2013 will also address contingency planning and response operations in case of an offshore incident as well as progress made in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12.

The principal objectives of the Workshop will be:

1. To review regional arrangements and policies related to response and cooperation to major oil spill incidents in the Mediterranean Region;
2. To examine the identified recognized international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
3. To review the assessment and analysis of the existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities; and
4. To provide recommendations to be considered when drafting the Action Plan requested by Decision IG.20/12

All Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points have been invited to nominate jointly and in consultation with all national authorities concerned their representatives in the Meeting. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the objectives of the Workshop as well as to the oil industry.

In order to assist the Meeting in its work, the Secretariat prepared the following annotations to the proposed provisional agenda of the Meeting.

#### Day I: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**08.30–09.00 Registration**

**09.00 - 09.15 Agenda item1 Opening**

MEDEXPOL 2013 will be opened on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 09.00 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 17.00hrs.

Mr. Frederic Hebert, Director of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) will open the Meeting.

**Agenda Item 2 Organization of the Meeting**

The participant to the Meeting will be invited to agree on the annotated agenda presented in the current document as well as the timetable.

The working languages of the Meeting will be English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation will be provided during the Meeting. All working documents will be available in English and in French. Information documents will be available in their original language unless a translation has been provided in the second working language.

**The Director of REMPEC will highlight the discussion scheme which will consist in expositions of relevant topics within the context of incident scenarios followed by immediate discussions through the active participation of the Meeting. The Workshop will identified gaps requiring future actions.**

**09.15 – 09.30 Agenda Item 3 Tier 3 Scenarios**

The Programme Officer of REMPEC will introduce two scenarios of major incidents occurring in the Mediterranean region. One scenario will describe a blow out from offshore platform, whilst the other scenario will focus on a tanker incident. The scenarios will be used all along the thematic discussions to set the context and encourage a dynamic dialogue on practical and operational issues.

**The Meeting will be invited to consider** these scenarios for the discussions in the following thematic sessions.

**SESSION 1: TIER 3 MONITORING**

**09.30 – 10.00 Agenda Item 4 Forecasting platform**

Reliable forecasting models are critical to support decision makers in identifying the most efficient response and in defining the response strategies and the corresponding mobilisation of means and personnel. Forecasting model can be provided by private companies and through regional services.

The Multi-model forecasting platform currently developed within the framework of the Project Mediterranean decision support system for marine safety (MEDESS-4MS) as a follow-up to MEDEXPOL 2011 (Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Risk Assessment in the Mediterranean Sea (MEDEXPOL 2011), Barcelona, Spain, 29 November - 1 December 2011) will be introduced and discussed along other private services. The oil industry will also introduce forecasting model capacities.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to discuss forecasting models.

**10.00 – 10.30 Coffee Break**

**10.30 – 11.15 Agenda Item 5 Satellite oil spill monitoring**

When a major incident occur, the prompt access to satellite images of the area concerned is crucial to obtain an overview of the extent of the pollution. The existing mechanisms (International Charter, CleanSeaNet, etc...) will be introduced and discussed.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to discuss any bottleneck or concern related to satellite image access.

**SESSION 2: TIER 3 SPILL RESPONSE TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**

In the midst of a catastrophic oil spill, having the right response equipment at the right time in the right location is crucial. Facility in acquiring essential equipment from one's own nation is not enough. There needs to be an efficient process to source critical resources worldwide. General experience has shown that in case of a request for assistance, the means to be rendered available by each country is determined on a case by case basis. However, having a clear overview on the existing stockpiles available in the region, can contribute to enhance the regional assistance mechanism and mobilization planning.



**11.15 – 12.00 Agenda Item 6 Well Capping System**

Following the incident affecting the oil rig Deepwater Horizon (also known as Macondo/MC 125), some 80 km off the coast of Louisiana, on 20 April 2010, the oil industry took a number of measures to prevent such incident and to respond to any possible similar accident. Amongst these measures, the worldwide Subsea Well Intervention Service (SWIS) has been set-up. This service will be introduced, whilst its deployment will be considered within the context of the scenario proposed for the purpose of the workshop.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to discuss the matter in the context of their country.

**12.00 – 13.00 Lunch**

**13.00 – 14.00 Agenda Item 7 At sea recovery**

At sea recovery requires large capacity and specialized means available from different public and private sources. The availability of these means will be briefly introduced, whilst their access and the mobilisation conditions will be discussed. The efficiency of these means will heavily depend on the capacity of unloading and treating the recovered oil inland.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to share their views on response at sea and storage/treatment facilities.

**14.00 – 14.45 Agenda Item 8 In-situ Burning**

During the Macondo response operations, in-situ burning was used as one of the response techniques during several weeks. These operations will be introduced to discuss the possible use of this technique in the Mediterranean region.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to share their views on the application of in-situ burning in the Mediterranean region.

**14.45 – 15.30 Agenda Item 9 Lessons learnt on extended use of dispersant**

More than three years after the extended use of dispersants to respond to the Macondo spill, a scientific review will be introduced to the participants of the Workshop.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to consider these elements in the Mediterranean context.

**15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break**

**16.00 – 16.45 Agenda Item 10 Dispersant stockpiles and application means**

The use of dispersant to combat an oil spill can be considered within a limited time frame. In the case of a major incident such as exposed in the scenarios, the quantity available in the affected country may not be sufficient, in particular in the case of continuous release from a blow-out, whilst the production of dispersant and its delivery may require several weeks. Hence, cooperation in rendering available existing dispersant stockpiles from neighboring countries or from the private sector is essential to secure the chain of supply. The same applies to the means of application of the dispersant, as the availability of these systems may not be commensurate to extended applications. An overview of known stockpiles and means in the Mediterranean will be provided.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to provide recommendations on the required conditions to render available dispersant stockpiles and application means.

**16.45 – 17.30 Agenda Item 11 National versus Regional Dispersant Use Policy**

The decision to use or not to use dispersant could create tensions and could also be source of compensation claims if it is deemed that damage resulted from the decision taken.

**The Meeting will be invited to** discuss and provide recommendations for the possible establishment of a regional dispersant use policy in the Mediterranean.

**Day II: 11<sup>h</sup> December 2013**

**SESSION 3: TIER 3 COORDINATION**

**09.00 – 10.30 Agenda Item 12 Sub-regional, regional, European, international, industry mechanisms and databases**

Large mobilisation can create difficulties and confusion due to the complexity of managing a multi-national and multi-organisation coordination and because of the quantity of information provided by different sources. The Macondo incident and the communication exercise carried out during the Marine Pollution Exercise TIFANI, held in Haifa, Israel, between 22 and 23 October 2012 have once again stressed the importance to establish, at the early stage of an incident, a coordination procedure in order to avoid duplication of efforts and increase the efficiency of international assistance.

An overview of the existing sub-regional, regional, European, international and industry mechanisms will be introduced for further discussion on possible improvements of multi-organisation coordination procedures/arrangements.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided, to discuss and provide recommendations on possible improvements of multi-organisation coordination procedures/arrangements.

**10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break**

**11.00 – 11.30 Agenda Item 13 Procedures (offers, processing, evaluation)**

Once a nation and its appropriate authority determine the need for response resources beyond its existing capabilities, as well as those beyond which it can obtain through exiting bilateral and multilateral agreements, a clear procedure to process and evaluate offers shall be established. Best practices and proposed templates listed in the draft International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Offers of Assistance (IOA) Guidelines will be presented.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided, to discuss and provide recommendations on the possible future adoption of common Mediterranean practices and forms.

**11.30 – 12.00 Agenda Item 14 Customs, Legal, Financial issues**

A Requesting Nation must decide that if the need for assistance from other nations exists, that Requesting Nation must determine how best it can facilitate the entry of the equipment, property or personnel from an Assisting Nation into its own territory. To that end, the Requesting Nation should facilitate the arrival of international environmental emergency assistance, including expeditious processing or complete waiver of customs and visa requirements. The Requesting Nation should also provide regular information to arriving experts or response teams with regard to entry points, customs and visa requirements and other arrival arrangements. Best practices and proposed templates listed in the IMO IOA Guidelines will be presented.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided, to discuss and provide recommendations on the possible future adoption of common Mediterranean practices and forms.

**12.00 – 12.45 Agenda Item 15      National and Offshore Contingency Planning and Exercises**

According to Article 16 of the Offshore Protocol, Contracting Parties shall in case of emergency implement mutatis mutandis the Prevention and Emergency Protocol, require operators to have contingency plan coordinated with the national contingency plan and establish coordination for the development of contingency plan. Article 11 of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol defines Parties obligations concerning emergency measures on board ships, on offshore installations and in ports.

**The Meeting will be invited to** discuss possible cooperation with the industry to ensure the integration of emergency measures on board ships, on offshore installations and in ports within the national contingency plan and their assessment through joint industry/government exercises.

**12.45 – 13.15 Agenda Item 16      Conclusions and recommendations**

**The Meeting will be invited to** review and adopt the recommendations made during the previous sessions.

**13.15 – 14.15                              Lunch**

**SESSION 4: THE OFFSHORE PROTOCOL**

**14.15 – 15.00 Agenda Item 17      Progress in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and Decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols**

The Director of REMPEC will provide an overview of progress made in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and of the Decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to initiate discussion on the requirement for the implementation of the Decision of the 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

**15.00 – 15.30                              Coffee break**

**15.30 – 16.30 Agenda Item 18      Liability and compensation**

The representative of IMO will introduced on-going discussion at IMO on matters concerning liability and compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from offshore exploration and exploitation activities

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to discuss liability and compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from offshore exploration and exploitation activities.

**Day III: 12<sup>h</sup> December 2013**

**09.00 – 10.30 Agenda Item 20 Offshore Protocol Questionnaire Analysis**

Based on the outcome of the questionnaire submitted to the Mediterranean coastal States and other source of information, UNEP-MAP and REMPEC have carry out a comparative analysis of existing legislative and administrative framework in the region in order to highlight potential gaps between the Offshore protocol requirements and the existing laws or practices. The outcome of this analysis and the related recommendations will be introduced to the Meeting.

**10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break**

**11.00 – 12.30 Agenda Item 19 Offshore Best Practices Review**

According to Article 23 of the Offshore Protocol on International rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures, UNEP-MAP and REMPEC with the technical and legal support of a consultancy firm have identify and analyse existing recognized international best practices and regulations either from a legislative or an industry point of view, relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol. Whenever a topic addressed under the Offshore Protocol was also addressed by a relevant international instrument, this instrument has been identified to ensure consistency between the Protocol and the regional and international legislations in place. The outcome of this review and the related recommendations will be introduced to the Meeting.

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to share their view on the proposed recommendations.

**12.30 – 13.30 Lunch**

**13.30 – 15.30 Agenda Item 20 Offshore Best Practices Review (cont.)**

**The Meeting will be invited to** take note of the information provided and to share their view on the proposed recommendations.

**15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break**

**16.00 – 17.00 Agenda Item 21 Conclusion and recommendations**

**The Meeting will be invited to** consider the elements provided in the previous discussions and to draw the final conclusions and recommendations for the preparation and implementation of the Offshore Protocol Action Plan.

**PROPOSED TIMETABLE**

<b>Day I: Tuesday, 10 December 2013</b>		
08.30 – 09.00	<b>Registration of the participants.</b>	
09.00 – 09.15	Agenda Item 1	Opening
	Agenda Item 2	Organization of the Meeting
09.15 – 09.30	Agenda Item 3	Tier 3 Scenarios
<b>Session 1: Tier 3 Monitoring</b>		
09.30 – 10.00	Agenda Item 4	Forecasting platform
10.00 – 10.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10.30 – 11.15	Agenda Item 5	Satellite oil spill monitoring
<b>Session 2: Tier 3 spill response techniques and equipment available</b>		
11.15 – 12.00	Agenda Item 6	Well Capping System
12.00 – 13.00	<b>Lunch</b>	
13.00 – 14.00	Agenda Item 7	At sea recovery
14.00 – 14.45	Agenda Item 8	In-situ Burning
14.45 – 15.30	Agenda Item 9	Lessons learnt on extended use of dispersant
15.30 – 16.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16.00 – 16.45	Agenda Item 10	Dispersant stockpiles and application means
16.45 – 17.30	Agenda Item 11	National versus Regional Dispersant Use Policy

<b>Day II: Wednesday, 11 December 2013</b>		
<b>Session 3: Tier 3 Coordination</b>		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 12	Sub-regional, regional, European, international & industry mechanisms and databases
10.30 - 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11.00 - 11.30	Agenda Item 13	Procedures (offers, processing, evaluation)
11.30 - 12.00	Agenda Item 14	Customs, Legal, Financial issues
12.00 - 12.45	Agenda Item 15	National and Offshore Contingency Planning and Exercises
12.45 - 13.15	Agenda Item 16	Conclusions and recommendations
13.15 - 14.15	<b>Lunch</b>	

<b>Session 4: The Offshore Protocol</b>		
14.15 - 15.00	Agenda Item 17	Progress in the implementation of Decision IG.20/12 and Decision of the 18 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols
15.00 - 15.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15.30 - 17.00	Agenda Item 18	Liability and compensation

<b>Day III: Thursday, 12 December 2013</b>		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 20	Offshore Protocol Questionnaire Analysis
10.30 - 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
11.00 - 12.30	Agenda Item 19	Offshore Best Practices Review
12.30 - 13.30	<b>Lunch</b>	
13.30 - 15.30	Agenda Item 19	Offshore Best Practices Review (cont.)
15.30 - 16.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	
16.00 - 17.00	Agenda Item 21	Conclusion and recommendations

**ANNEX III**

**FINAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

**WORKING DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.34/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda.
REMPEC/WG.34/2/Rev.1	Annotated Agenda.
REMPEC/WG/34/19	Study on International Best Practices
REMPEC/WG/34/20	Offshore Protocol Questionnaire Analysis
REMPEC/WG/34/21	Report of the Workshop

**INFORMATION DOCUMENTS**

REMPEC/WG.34/INF.1	List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.1/Rev.1	List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.1/Rev.2	List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.1/Rev.3	Final List of documents.
REMPEC/WG.34/J/I	Provisional list of participants.
REMPEC/WG.34/J/I/Rev.1	Provisional list of participants.
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.2	List of participants.
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.3	Draft IMO International Offer of Assistance Guidelines
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.4	On-going discussion at IMO on matters concerning liability and compensation for oil pollution damage resulting from offshore exploration and exploitation activities
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.5	Capping and containment - International Association of Oil and Gas Producers/Global Industry Response Group recommendations
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.6	Deep-water Wells - International Association of Oil and Gas Producers - Global Industry Response Group
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.7	Oil Spill Response - International Association of Oil and Gas Producers/Global Industry Response Group recommendations
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.8	Mutual aid in large-scale offshore incidents - a framework for the offshore oil and gas industry - International Association of Oil and Gas Producers
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.9	Cancelled
REMPEC/WG.34/INF.10	New challenges in oil spill response for Mediterranean States engaged in offshore activities - Submitted by Cyprus

## **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

UNEP/MAP	Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil - (Offshore Protocol)
UNEP/MAP	Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol)
UNEP/MAP	Decision IG 20.12 - Action Plan to implement the Protocol of the Barcelona Convention concerning the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil.
REMPEC	Guidelines for co-operation in combating marine oil pollution in the Mediterranean
REMPEC	Principles and guidelines concerning cooperation and mutual assistance
REMPEC	Principles and Guidelines concerning the role and responsibilities of experts sent on mission by the Centre
REMPEC	Principles and Guidelines concerning the sending, receiving and returning of equipment in case of international assistance operation
REMPEC	Principles and Guidelines concerning arrangements and operational procedures which could be applied in case of a joint operation
REMPEC	Check-list of procedures to be followed and persons to be contacted in case of emergency
REMPEC	Check-list of principal institutional provisions aimed at facilitating mutual assistance in case of a major marine pollution accident which should be included in national contingency plans
REMPEC	Guidelines concerning the exchange of liaison officers between the contracting parties in case of response operations involving several states
REMPEC	Guidelines concerning arrangements which might be made with a view to ensuring, in case of an accident liaison between the Governmental Authorities and other interested Parties

## **WEB LINK**

Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project (OSR-JIP)  
<http://oilspillresponseproject.org>