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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Joint Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Committee and the Socio-Economic Committee

Athens, 26-30 June 1989

Recommendations and programme budget for 1990-1991
for the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC)

Proposal by the Secretariat

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING DECISIONS AND ACTIONS
WHICH MAY BE TAKEN, AT NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL LEVEL,
IN RESPONSE TO PROBLEMS RELATED TO MARITIME TRANSPORT OF
HARMFUL SUBSTANCES AND TO ACCIDENTAL SPILLAGES OF THESE SUBSTANCES

1. The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Recognizing that the main priority of the Centre is to consolidate its work in promoting co-operation between the Mediterranean coastal States in combating marine pollution emergencies,

Recommends that the Centre should give high priority to its current activities concerning organization of training courses and the improvement of the communication between the Contracting Parties.

2. Collecting data on the maritime transport of hazardous substances.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Recommends that the Governments of States, Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to its Protocols, encourage and facilitate the creation of a regional network, consisting of correspondents within port authorities and within authorities responsible for Vessel Traffic Services, who are receiving reports on ships' movements and on their cargoes. The purpose of this network will be:

- to assist in collecting data on maritime transport of harmful substances other than oil in the Mediterranean;
- to facilitate, in case of accident and when possible, rapid access to information on cargo including loading plan.

Requests the Regional Centre to take necessary steps for the establishment of this network and to report the results of actions taken at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

3. Prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by harmful substances transported by ships.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Recommends that the Mediterranean coastal States, which have not until now ratified international Conventions related to marine pollution and maritime safety of which IMO is depositary, do so as soon as possible, and that the Mediterranean coastal States take necessary actions for effective application of these Conventions by adopting national laws and regulations and by establishing appropriate services for control of their application.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Noting difficulties faced by certain Mediterranean coastal States in implementing relevant Conventions,

Being aware of the importance of application of these Conventions for the prevention of marine pollution,

Recognizing the importance of the International Maritime Organization technical assistance programme in the field of marine environment protection,

Invites IMO to continue to pay particular attention within the framework of its programme of technical assistance, to the needs of the Mediterranean countries and in this context draw the attention of the relevant multilateral and national donor agencies to these needs.

4. Knowledge of harmful substances related risks and management of a computerized decision support system within the framework of regional information system.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Having examined and approved proposals concerning the functions of the Regional Centre (Annex amending Resolution 7) and in particular functions A, B, C and D, which constitute the components of the regional information system anticipated in the function E and described in Annex II to the document ROCC/WG.1/4,

Recognizing the need that those in charge of response operations obtain, as quickly as possible, in case of accident involving hazardous substances, necessary information concerning the behaviour, hazards and possible response methods and consequently the important role which information systems and in particular decision support systems play in this regard,

Being aware that sources of information at national level are on the whole insufficient,

Confirms the important role of the Regional Centre in processing and disseminating information especially through regional information system and particularly, in case of accident or for the preparation of contingency plans, by operating computerized decision support system.

Requests that all the possibilities for providing the Regional Centre with a computerized decision support system, which could be operated for the benefit of the Parties to the Protocol, be explored.

Further asks the Regional Centre:

- i) to initiate activities at the national level aimed at collecting data etc., necessary for the establishment in the future of a computerized marine pollution emergency decision support system, taking into account all existing databases, systems and experience gained in this field throughout the world, and in particular, to make use of existing sources of cartographic and oceanographic data on the Mediterranean, with a view to adapting the decision support system and its simulation models to the region.
- ii) to establish a priority list of substances based on the highest spillage probability, and to prepare, on the basis of existing information, operational technical files for intervention, including accident scenarios, for these substances.

5. Organization and contingency planning.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties:

Recommends that each Mediterranean coastal State adapt their national oil spill contingency plan and response organization to combating accidents involving other hazardous substances,

Requests that the Regional Centre, in order to assist the Mediterranean coastal States to develop their own emergency response organization:

- i) prepares guidelines for adaptation of contingency plans to include response in cases of accidents causing or likely to cause marine pollution by harmful substances;
- ii) provides, within the limits of its budgetary resources, assistance in the preparation of contingency plans, either by using its own expertise or by using outside experts, to those States which so request.

6. Alerting procedure and communications network.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recommends to the Governments of the Mediterranean coastal States, pursuant to Protocol I of MARPOL 73/78 and relevant IMO recommendations, to give appropriate instructions to coastal radio stations and to appoint institutions responsible for operating the entire ship alerting system, in order to assure that reports on accidents involving hazardous substances are transmitted without delay to the emergency response organization.

The meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling the obligation of the Mediterranean coastal States, Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, to inform, either directly or through the Centre, the other Parties which may be affected by accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil or other harmful substances,

Requests the Regional Centre to organize periodically alert exercises in order to test use of standard alert message and communications network.

7. International assistance in cases of major marine pollution accidents.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,

Recalling that in most cases, major marine pollution accidents call for co-operation and international assistance

Noting that in certain circumstances requested assistance might not be available from any of the States, Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency,

Requests that the Regional Centre, using in particular the results of the IMO work on the preparation of "Guide to International Assistance in Marine Pollution Emergencies", compiles and disseminates to the Mediterranean coastal States information on the nature, conditions and procedures by which assistance can be provided by States and organizations.

8. Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Noting with satisfaction the approval at Basel, Switzerland, on 22 March 1989, of the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal,

Recommends that the Mediterranean coastal States, which have not signed or ratified the Basel Convention, do so as soon as possible.

9. Change of the name of the Regional Centre.

The Meeting of the Contracting Parties,
Having considered the extension of the terms of reference of the Regional Centre to include activities related to response to marine pollution emergencies involving hazardous substances other than oil, in addition to activities related to combating oil pollution,

Agrees to change the name of the Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea to "Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea".

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 7
Draft Amended Annex

Objectives and functions of a Regional Centre for combating pollution of the Mediterranean by oil and other harmful substances

I. OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in order to respond to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, especially in case of emergency in which there is grave and imminent danger to the marine environment or when it can affect human lives.
2. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request in the development of their own national capabilities for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training.
3. A later objective, namely the possibility of initiating operations to combat pollution by oil and eventually by other harmful substances at the regional level, can be considered. This possibility should be submitted for approval by governments after evaluating the results achieved in the fulfilment of the previous two objectives and in the light of financial resources which could be made available for this purpose.
4. To provide a framework for exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters.

II. FUNCTIONS

- A. To collect and disseminate information on:
 - i) competent national authorities responsible for receiving reports of pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and for dealing with matters concerning measures of assistance between Parties;
 - ii) inventories of experts, equipment and installations in each coastal State for response to accidents causing or likely to cause pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances, and which might be, under certain conditions, put at the disposal of the state which so requests in case of emergency;
 - iii) general information, plans, methods and techniques for combating pollution by oil and other harmful substances in order to assist as far as necessary countries of the region in the preparation of their national contingency plans;

- iv) Mediterranean coastal zones, with a particular attention to the zones which are especially sensitive to pollution by oil and other harmful substances. This information could be used by risk predicting models and for the preparation of environmental sensitivity maps.
- B. To establish, keep up to date and operate a partially computerized data base on chemicals and their properties, risks for human life and the marine environment, response techniques and combating methods.
- C. To progressively develop and operate a marine pollution emergency decision support system with a view to providing rapidly to the Mediterranean coastal States information concerning behaviour, risks and different possibilities for action in cases of accidents involving oil and other harmful substances.
- D. To prepare, disseminate and keep up to date operational guides and technical documents.
- E. To develop and maintain a regional Communications/Information system appropriate to the needs of States being served by the Centre.
- F. To develop technological co-operation and training programmes for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances and to organize training courses.
- G. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the preparation and development of bilateral or multilateral operational agreements between coastal States covering sea areas of common interest.
- H. To prepare and keep up to date operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean coastal States in cases of emergency.
- I. To provide, upon request, to coastal States assistance in cases of emergency, either by using its own capacities or through secondment of experts.
- J. To assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which in cases of emergency so request, in obtaining assistance of the other Parties to the Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, or when the possibilities for assistance do not exist within the region, in obtaining international assistance from outside the region.
- K. To develop and maintain close working relationships with other Mediterranean regional activity centres and with the "specialized regional organisms" which play a co-ordinating role as set forth in the Mediterranean Action Plan, particularly with the scientific institutions within the region.
- L. To co-operate as appropriate in activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan related to marine pollution.

**WORKPLAN OF THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES
WHICH SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT OR CO-ORDINATED BY THE CENTRE**

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	PRIORITY	CARRIED OUT BY	Year of realization		
			1990	1991	1992
I. REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES)					
A. Arrangements and operational procedures					
1. Preparation of a new standard alert message applicable to oil and other harmful substances.	1	ROCC	x		
2. Preparation of a proposal for modification of guidelines for co-operations in combating marine oil pollution, in order to cover hazardous substances	1	ROCC	x		
3. Preparation of arrangements and procedures applicable in cases of joint operations.	1	ROCC		x	
B. Lists and inventories					
4. List of competent national authorities.	1	ROCC			- permanent activity -
5. Description of national organizations.	1	ROCC			- permanent activity -
6. Inventory of experts, equipments and products which could be, under certain conditions, put at disposal of a State which so requests					
6.1 oil	1	ROCC			- permanent activity -
6.2 hazardous substances	1	ROCC			- permanent activity -
7. Catalogue of response equipment and products					
7.1 oil (updating)	3	ROCC		x	x
7.2 harmful substances	1	ROCC	x		x
8. Practical guide on conditions and limitations for use of response equipment and products (harmful substances).	1	ROCC		x	x
9. Inventory of commercial companies and specialized organizations providing services in cases of emergency in the Mediterranean					
9.1 oil (updating)	2	ROCC		x	x
9.2 harmful substances	1	ROCC	x		x

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	PRIORITY	CARRIED OUT BY	Year of realization		
			1990	1991	1992 1993
C. Data bases					
10. Recording and selection of data banks.	1	ROCC	x		
11. Establishment of a partially computerized data base.	1	ROCC/ Consultant (1)	x	4000 US\$	
12. Keeping and using a partly computerized data base.	1	ROCC			- permanent activity -
13. Identification of sources of cartographic, oceanographic and meteorological data on the Mediterranean.	1	ROCC	x	x	
14. List of alerts and accidents (annual updating).	2	ROCC			- permanent activity -
15. Establishment of a network of correspondents for collecting data on maritime transport of hazardous substances					
15.1 Taking necessary measures towards establishment	2	ROCC	x		
15.2 Reporting to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties	2	ROCC		x	
D. Forecasting models and decision support systems					
16. Adaptation and use of a classification system for chemicals					
16.1 Preliminary version	1	ROCC	x		permanent use
16.2 Advanced version	1	ROCC		x	
17. Adaptation to the region and subsequent use of behaviour simulation and risk assessment models.	1	ROCC/ Consultant (2)		x	4000 US\$ adaptation permanent use
18. Adaptation to the needs of the region and subsequent use of a decision support system.	1	ROCC/ Consultant (2)		x	4000 US\$ permanent adaptation use

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	PRIORITY	CARRIED OUT BY	Year of realization			
			1990	1991	1992	1993
E. Operational guides and technical documents						
19. Guide for oil (updating)	2	ROCC	x		x	
20. Guide for hazardous substances (preparation and updating)	1	ROCC		x		x
21. Guidelines for preparation of national contingency plans (hazardous substances)	1	ROCC	x			
22. Priority list of substances based on spillage probability	1	ROCC	x			
23. Technical intervention files of operational character (by substance)	1	ROCC	x	x	x	x
24. Guidelines for the use of dispersants in the Mediterranean (preparation).	1	ROCC	x			
II. ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNTRIES WHICH SO REQUEST, IN DEVELOPING THEIR NATIONAL CAPACITIES (NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANS)						
25. Visiting two countries per year, either by Centre's experts or by a purposely recruited Consultants.	1	ROCC/ Consultant	x (3) 7000 US\$	x 7000 US\$	x 7000 US\$	x 7000 US\$

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS	PRIORITY	CARRIED OUT BY	Year of realization			
			1990	1991	1992	1993
III. TRAINING						
26. Regional training courses of general type on oil.	3	ROCC in co-op with EEC (4)				x
27. Regional training courses of general type on harmful substances.	1	ROCC in co-op with EEC (4)	x	x		
28. Specialized regional training courses on oil.	2	ROCC in co-op with EEC (4)			x	
29. Specialized regional training courses on hazardous substances.	1	ROCC in co-op with EEC (4)		x	x	x
30. Specialized regional training course on response to accidents involving hazardous substances, in port areas.	1	ROCC/support to organization (5)		x		
31. Regional seminar on financial questions, liabilities and compensation for consequences of accidents causing pollution by oil or other harmful substances.	1	ROCC in co-op with IOPC Fund, ITOPE and EEC	x			
32. Regional training course on response to accidental pollution resulting from offshore oil exploration or production operations.	3	ROCC/support to organization (5)		x		
33. Providing assistance to the States which so request in preparation of national training seminars (assistance to two seminars per year).	1	Organized in co-op with ROCC (6)	x	x	x	x
34. Making available teaching documents for national training activities	2	ROCC	x	x	x	x

Year of realization
1990 1991 1992 1993

ACTIVITIES/ACTIONS

CARRIED OUT BY

PRIORITY

IV. CO-OPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN CASES OF EMERGENCY

- 35. Organization of alert exercises aimed at testing the use of standard alert message and communication network (1 or 2 exercises per year).

	1	ROCC in co-op with Regional States	x	x	x	x
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- 36. Providing assistance to the States which so request in the preparation and development of operational bilateral and multilateral Agreements between neighbouring coastal States (depending on requests but not more than one Agreement per year).

	1	ROCC (6)	x	x	x	x
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- 37. Assisting States which so request in organizing joint response exercises (depending on requests but not more than one joint exercise per year).

	1	ROCC in co-op with concerned States (6)	x	x	x	x
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- 38. Collection and distribution of information on nature, conditions and procedures concerning international assistance from outside the region.

	2	ROCC	x	x	x	x
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- (1) Services of a Consultant will be required during the initial phase.
- (2) Services of a Consultant will be required for adaptation of simulation models and decision support system.
- (3) 7000 US\$ approximately correspond to the amount which the Centre should be possibly able to dedicate to this activity from its "consultant" budget line.
- (4) ROCC regional training courses (MEDIPOL / MEDEXPOL) are organized annually in co-operation with the Commission of European Communities which participate in financing half of its cost.
- (5) For this type of courses, ROCC provides its support in the organization, but financing will be assured by the other party.
- (6) With the exception of the assistance provided by the staff of the Centre, financing will be assured by States concerned (or other possible sources).