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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting

Valletta, Malta, 13-14 June 2013

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides brief information on the action to be taken by the Meeting.

Action to be taken: As indicated under each agenda item.

Related documents: -

Introduction

The 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting has been convened in Malta between the 13 and 14 June 2013, pursuant to the Decision IG.20/12 of the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Paris, France, 8-10 February 2012).

The principal objectives of the Meeting will be:

1. To examine recognized international best practices and regulations relevant to the implementation of the Offshore Protocol;
2. To share experience on existing practical measures in place in the Mediterranean countries with regard to Offshore activities,
3. To provide recommendations in view of the drafting of 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 participation in national delegations of observers representing the oil offshore exploration and production industries has been strongly encouraged. The invitation to attend the Meeting was also extended to the specialized agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to the international professional organizations and associations whose activities are relevant for the work of the Offshore Protocol Working Group.

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: 13th June 2013

08.30–09.00 Registration

09.00 - 09.45 Agenda item1 Opening

The 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting will be opened on Thursday, 13th June 2013 at 09.00 hours and is expected to close on Friday, 14th June 2013 at 17.30hrs.

Ms Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Executive Secretary and Co-ordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme - Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and 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 Director of REMPEC will recall the functions of the meetings of the Parties to the Offshore Protocol according to Article 30 of the Protocol.

The annotated agenda presented in the current document will be proposed for adoption by the Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting. The Meeting will also be invited to agree on the timetable to carry out its work.

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 both official languages of the Centre, i.e. 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.

Agenda Item 3 Presentation of the Offshore Protocol

The Director of REMPEC will present the 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) to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention).

09.45 - 10.15 Agenda Item 4 Overview of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region

The Secretariat will provide an overview of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region. The presentation will be based on data made available by Clarkson Research. A set of publications and maps from Clarkson Research will be made available to the participants of the Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

10.15 - 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 - 11.30 Agenda Item 5 **Types of installation & related risks for offshore activities**

Taking into consideration Article 1 of the Protocol on Definitions, the representative of the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP), Mr John Campbell, will introduce the different types of installation and related risks of offshore activities.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

11.30 - 12.00 Agenda Item 6 **Overview of players and synergies**

The representative of OGP will continue his introduction providing an overview of the main players involved in offshore activities. He will emphasise their role, and interaction.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch

13.00 - 13.45 Agenda Item 7 **EU regulatory framework in the field of offshore activities**

In accordance with Article 30.2.h of the Protocol, the Parties shall “*facilitate the implementation of policies and the achievement of the objectives referred in Section V (Cooperation), in particular the harmonization of national and European Community legislation*”. In this context, a presentation of the regulatory regime in the EU and its latest developments will be introduced by a representative from the European Commission.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

13.45 - 14.30 Agenda Item 8 **OSPAR’s actions and measures in the field of offshore activities**

According to Article 23, paragraph 2 of the Protocol, “*the Parties, shall, as soon as possible, endeavour to harmonize their laws and regulations with the International rules, standards and recommended practices and procedures*”. In view of considering existing rules, standards, practices and procedures from other regions with experience in the matter, the representative of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), Dr. Maria Luisa Rodriguez Lucas, Deputy Secretary of the OSPAR Commission, will introduce OSPAR’s actions and measures in the field of offshore activities.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

14.30 - 15.00 Agenda Item 9 **Offshore regulation and practice in UK**

To continue on the review of existing rules, standards, practices and procedures from other regions, Mr Stephen Walker, Head of Strategic Intervention – Energy Division, Health Safety Executive (HSE), United Kingdom, will introduce the Offshore regulations in place in the United Kingdom.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

15.00 - 15.30 Agenda Item 10 Offshore regulation and practice in Italy

With a view to considering Mediterranean coastal States' rules, standards, practices and procedures, the representative of the Ministry of Economic Development of Italy will introduce the Offshore regulations in place in Italy.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 16.45 Agenda Item 11 How to satisfy national regulations in different countries?

According to Article 4 of the Protocol, "*all activities in the Protocol Area shall be subject to the prior written authorization for exploration or exploitation from the competent authority. [...] Such authorization shall be granted in accordance with the appropriate procedure, as defined by the competent authority*". In this context, the representatives of Noble Energy, Mr Clinton Glen Boman, Director, Environment Health & Safety, Global Emergency Response and Ms Sarah Watson, Director, Watson Energy Consulting will present the approach of the company to satisfy national regulations in different countries.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

16.45 - 17.30 Agenda Item 12 Offshore installation verification

According to Article 15 of the Protocol, "*the Contracting Parties with whose jurisdiction activities are envisaged or are being carried out shall ensure that safety measures are taken with regards to the design, construction, placement, equipment, marking, operation and maintenance of installations.*" In this respect, the representative of Det Norske Veritas (DNV), Mr Simack Ataibi, Business Development Manager, will introduce the experience of DNV in offshore installations verification.

The Meeting will be invited to comment and take note of the information provided.

Day II: 14th June 2013

09.00 – 15.00 Agenda Item 13-15 Panel Discussion: Authorization, Control of operations and Human element

Mr. Walker (Health Safety Executive (HSE), United Kingdom) will moderate the discussion through specific questions to the participants of the Meeting and to the panel composed of representatives from the Italian Ministry of Economic Development, Mabruk Oil Operations, OGP, Noble Energy and DNV.

The Meeting participants will be invited to actively participate in the discussion by sharing their experiences and raising relevant questions.

15.30 – 17.00 Agenda Item 16 Panel Discussion: Operational discharges

Dr. Rodriguez (OSPAR Convention) will moderate the discussion through specific questions to the participants of the Meeting and to the panel composed of representatives from the Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in

the Mediterranean Region (MED POL), Noble Energy and REMPEC.

The Meeting participants will be invited to actively participate in the discussion by sharing their experiences and raising relevant questions.

17.00 – 17.30 Agenda Item 17 Conclusions and recommendations

The Director of REMPEC will address the Meeting and highlight the main conclusions and recommendations from the 1st Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting.

The Meeting will be invited to consider, discuss, and agree upon a set of recommendations to be considered for the preparation of the 2nd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting.

17.30 Agenda Item 18: Closure of the Meeting

The Meeting is expected to be closed by the Director of REMPEC at 17.30 hours on Friday, 14 June 2013.

Proposed Timetable

Day I: Thursday, 13 June 2013		
08.30 - 09.00	Registration of the participants.	
09.00 - 09.45	Agenda Item 1	Opening
	Agenda Item 2	Organization of the Meeting
	Agenda Item 3	Presentation of the Offshore Protocol
09.45 - 10.15	Agenda Item 4	Overview of offshore activities in the Mediterranean region
10.15 - 10.45	Coffee break	
10.45 - 11.30	Agenda Item 5	Types of installation & related risks for offshore activities
11.30 - 12.00	Agenda Item 6	Overview of players and synergies
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch	
13.00 - 13.45	Agenda Item 7	EU regulatory framework in the field of offshore activities
13.45 - 14.30	Agenda Item 8	OSPAR's actions and measures in the field of offshore activities
14.30 - 15.00	Agenda Item 9	Offshore regulation and practice in UK
15.00 - 15.30	Agenda Item 10	Offshore regulation and practice in Italy
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break	
16.00 - 16.45	Agenda Item 11	How to satisfy national regulations in different countries?
16.45 - 17.30	Agenda Item 12	Offshore installation verification

Day II: Friday, 14 June 2013		
09.00 - 10.30	Agenda Item 13	Panel Discussion: Authorization
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30	Agenda Item 14	Panel Discussion: Control of operations
12.30 - 13.30	Lunch	
13.30 - 15.00	Agenda Item 15	Panel Discussion: Human element
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break	
15.30 - 17.00	Agenda Item 16	Panel Discussion: Operational discharges
17.00 - 17.30	Agenda Item 17	Conclusions and recommendations
17.30	Agenda Item 18	Closure of the Meeting