



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND

ASSEMBLY
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Agenda item 4

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GRANT OF OBSERVER STATUS

Note by the Director

1 The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has requested observer status with the IOPC Fund. The organisation has submitted information about its structure and has indicated the areas in which it has common interests with the IOPC Fund.

2 Following the adoption in 1976 of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention) and two Protocols, one of which concerns Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency, the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) was created with a view to implementing that Protocol. The Centre, administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), was established in Malta. In 1989, the Parties to the Barcelona Convention approved new objectives and functions for the Centre and changed its name to the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

3 The objectives of REMPEC are:

- to strengthen the capacities of the coastal States in the Mediterranean and to facilitate co-operation among them in case of a major pollution accident;
- to assist coastal States of the Mediterranean region, which so request, in the development of their own capabilities for response to accidents;
- to facilitate information exchange, technological co-operation and training; and
- to provide a framework for the exchange of information on operational, technical, scientific, legal and financial matters.

4 REMPEC maintains a regional information system concerning oil and hazardous substances, assists in the preparation of contingency plans, organises training courses and supports co-operation and mutual assistance in cases of emergency. In the case of a marine pollution incident, assistance is given by REMPEC at the request of States, for example by providing advice and technical expertise, and by helping to obtain and co-ordinate international assistance.

5 The Director considers that REMPEC fulfils the criteria laid down in the guidelines regarding the criteria for the granting of observer status to international non-governmental organisations (document FUND/A.16/2, paragraph 1). He is of the opinion that REMPEC will be able to contribute to the work of the IOPC Fund.

Action to be Taken by the Assembly

6 The Assembly is invited to take a decision on REMPEC's application for observer status.
