



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA OKOLJE IN PROSTOR

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**THE SPEECH OF MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL
PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA,
DR JANEZ PODOBNIK, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF THE
AGREEMENT BETWEEN SLOVENIA, ITALY AND CROATIA
AT THE 14TH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION
(Wednesday, 9th November 2005)**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

In times of globalization the marine transport is experiencing an exceptional growth. Its degradation influences on the marine environment can already be noticed in the so-called regular operations due to the series of emissions linked to the discharges of waste and ballast water, emissions of pollutants, noise as well as an increased electromagnetic radiation.

The last two cases of marine accidents, Erica and Prestige, have shown that the consequences of pollution can be catastrophic – for the marine environment as well as for the coastal economy.

In enclosed seas such as the Adriatic Sea, the marine ecosystems are extremely fragile. The enclosed nature of the seas intensifies the effects of the pollution, which can have fatal consequences for the life in the seas as well as for the coast.

The marine transport is also increasing rapidly in the Adriatic Sea. We are talking about a very important development, which, however, demands a **simultaneous** and responsible action by the coastal countries in establishing the measures which increase the security of transport and reduce its effects on the marine environment.

Today is therefore a **historic day** for the ecoregion of the Adriatic. The signature of **an agreement between Slovenia, Italy and Croatia for the implementation of the plan for the prevention and handling in the event of pollution arising from the marine accidents (Adriatic Contingency Plan)** is a very important tool for the Mediterranean sub-region. It represents a tool which will enable the three Adriatic states to strengthen co-operation in establishing modern practices for the prevention of pollution of the Adriatic Sea due to ship transport and to implement effective



Morje potrebuje naš glas
The sea deserves our voice

30 let
Sredozemskega akcijskega načrta
14. redno zasedanje pogodbenic Konvencije
o varstvu morskega okolja in obalnih
območij Sredozemlja in njenih protokolov
Portorož, Slovenija, 8. - 11. november 2005

30 years
Mediterranean Action Plan
14th Ordinary Meeting of the
Contracting Parties to the Convention
for the Protection of the Marine
Environment and the Coastal Regions of
the Mediterranean and its Protocols
Portorož, Slovenia, 8 - 11 November 2005



measures for responding to and acting in cases of accidents at sea.

It is of great importance that Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro as well as Albania, where REMPEC is already proceeding with its work in line with the recommendations of the Adriatic states for the establishment of a special sensitive marine region (PSSA) in the Adriatic in accordance with the measures of the International Marine Organization (IMO), would also like to join the implementation of this plan as soon as possible.

And last but not least: without director of REMPEC, Rear Admiral Robert Patrun, we would not have this agreement. It is him who deserves great acknowledgment for this exceptionally well done work. With his wisdom, vision, professionalism and experiences he overpassed the (bureaucratic and political) barriers witch seemed insurmountable - to the benefit of all the Adriatic states as well as the whole Mediterranean.

I would therefore like to thank him for his work on behalf of all of us **and on behalf of the future generations.**

Thank you