



INTERNATIONAL  
OIL POLLUTION  
COMPENSATION  
FUNDS

FONDS INTERNATIONAUX  
D'INDEMNISATION POUR LES  
DOMMAGES DUS À LA  
POLLUTION PAR LES  
HYDROCARBURES

FONDOS INTERNACIONALES  
DE INDEMNIZACIÓN DE  
DAÑOS DEBIDOS A  
CONTAMINACIÓN POR  
HIDROCARBUROS

## PRESS STATEMENT

### WILLEM OOSTERVEEN ELECTED AS NEXT DIRECTOR OF THE IOPC FUNDS

FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2006

The 1992 Fund Assembly has elected Mr Willem J G Oosterveen of the Netherlands as the next Director of the IOPC Funds. Mr Oosterveen will take up his duties on 1 November 2006.

Willem Oosterveen, who is 48, has a long association with the IOPC Funds, having been Chairman of the 1971 Fund Executive Committee from 1995 to 1998 and of the 1992 Fund Assembly from 1999 to March 2005. As Senior Legal Advisor to the Netherlands Ministry of Justice, he has represented the Netherlands in numerous negotiations in a variety of international organisations since 1990, mainly concerning transport, environmental, liability and electronic commerce law. Since 1999, he has also been a part-time judge at the Court of Appeal in The Hague.

Mr Oosterveen said: "I am deeply honoured by the Assembly's decision to appoint me as next Director of the IOPC Funds and will do my utmost to faithfully fulfil the obligations and responsibilities that come with the post. Although it is clear that there is much more to the position, the essence of the task of the Director is, in my view, to run the Secretariat so that the IOPC Funds operate smoothly for the benefit of the international community, thus doing justice to the spirit of the Conventions governing the international compensation regime. To that end, I hope to involve as many Member States as possible in the decision-making processes of the Funds' governing bodies and to respond, where possible, to feedback from Member States and other stakeholders regarding the operation of the Secretariat."

The current Director of the IOPC Funds, Mr Måns Jacobsson, has been the Director of the 1971 Fund since 1985, of the 1992 Fund since its establishment in 1996 and of the Supplementary Fund since its establishment in 2005. Prior to his appointment as Director of the IOPC Funds, Mr Jacobsson was a Court of Appeal judge in Sweden and held the positions of Assistant Under-Secretary and Head of the Department for International Affairs in the Swedish Ministry of Justice.

Mr Jacobsson stated that it had been a great privilege to serve the IOPC Funds and the international community for the last 21 years. He congratulated Mr Oosterveen on his election, saying: "Many challenges lie ahead for the international compensation regime, including the continuing growth in membership, the need to ensure that the regime continues to meet the needs of society and the expected entry into force of the HNS Convention. I am confident that my successor will be able to rise to these challenges, building on what has been achieved since the first building block, the 1969 Civil Liability Convention, was put into place in 1969."

Mr Jacobsson will retain full responsibility for the Organisations up to 31 October 2006. Mr Oosterveen will join the Secretariat on 1 September 2006 and take up office on 1 November 2006, with Mr Jacobsson continuing to be available until his retirement on 31 December 2006.

London, 20 October 2005

### Notes for Editors:

1. The international regime for compensation of victims of oil pollution damage is based on two international Conventions, the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 ("1992 Civil Liability Convention") and the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992 ("1992 Fund Convention").
2. The 1992 Civil Liability Convention and the 1992 Fund Convention were adopted with the aim of ensuring prompt payment of compensation after an oil spill without the need for victims to prove any negligence.
3. The 1992 Civil Liability Convention therefore imposes strict liability (liability without fault) for pollution damage upon the shipowner and requires him to insure against that liability. The shipowner is normally entitled to limit his liability to an amount calculated by reference to the tonnage of his ship. In practice, the compensation is usually paid by the shipowner's Protection and Indemnity insurer.
4. The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992 ("1992 Fund") was established under the 1992 Fund Convention. The Fund's purpose is to provide additional compensation in cases where the amount payable by the shipowner or his insurer is insufficient to provide full compensation to the victims of oil pollution damage, up to a maximum of £166 million (\$293 million) including any amount paid by the shipowner and his insurer.
5. The Supplementary Fund was established under the Supplementary Fund Protocol, which entered into force on 3 March 2005, and provides additional compensation up to a maximum of £615 million (\$1 081 million), including any compensation paid by the 1992 Fund and the shipowner and his insurer.
6. The 1971 Fund was established under the 1971 Fund Convention, which preceded the 1992 Fund Convention. The 1971 Fund Convention ceased to be in force on 24 May 2002 and does not apply to incidents occurring after that date. However, the 1971 Fund will not be wound up until it has met its obligations in respect of pending incidents.
7. The IOPC Funds are funded by contributions from receivers in Member States of crude oil or heavy fuel oil (contributing oil) after sea transport.
8. The Director of the 1992 Fund is *ex officio* Director of the 1971 Fund and of the Supplementary Fund.
9. The HNS Convention, which has not yet entered into force, was adopted in 1996 with the aim of providing compensation to victims of damage caused by the maritime transport of hazardous and noxious substances (HNS).
10. Conversion of currencies in these notes has been made on the basis of the rates at 19 October 2005, ie 1 SDR (Special Drawing Right) = US\$1.44159 = £0.819968.