

Mediterranean Oil Industry Group for Oil Spill Response

NEWS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Our MOIG is at an important crossroad. After three years as an "informal" group, a more structured and formal network is emerging. With the help of the



Andre Lamy, MOIG Chairman

Tunisian Oil Industry we have now secured a permanent secretary in Tunis (Tunisia). This process has been achieved through the funding of our actions, funding we have to provide by a voluntary contribution of each one of our companies.

Without permanent management and independent budget, our network cannot survive. This is one of the challenges we have to face in the coming months.

A few words concerning myself. In January 2001, I left Paris to join the Syrian branch of our Group in Damascus and I am now Health, Safety and Environment Manager of TotalFinaElf E&P Syria. I am very happy to be back in the Middle East, it's such a beautiful region.

Nevertheless, TotalFinaElf has accepted I continue to be MOIG's Chairman till the end of 2002. The network must go on! I therefore urge you all to convince your companies to fund the MOIG in order to continue the development of our network.

See you at our next MOIG meeting.

RECENT MOIG MEETING

The last MOIG meeting took place in Loutraki, Greece from 5-8th June 2001, hosted by Motor Oil (Hellas). Various members gave presentations covering topics such as the oil spill response arrangements in Greece, Morocco and Spain. The MOIG Constitution and Rules were discussed as well as the membership fees, which started in 2001.



MOIG Members, Loutraki, Greece, June 2001

The MOIG members were also able to attend a special session on the Interactive Map Service (IMapS) given by IPIECA and UNEP-WCMC and observe a short exercise conducted by Motor Oil (Hellas) in the marine terminal area of their Corinth Refinery. The exercise had three main parts including the incident command centre, the response at sea and the response on land. Sensitivity maps of the immediate area close to the refinery were used to determine those sites (mainly fish farms and holiday resorts) requiring protection. These sites influenced where the booms and other equipment were placed to prevent the oil reaching the shore.

A second MOIG meeting, scheduled for October 2001, was postponed due to travel restrictions following the 11th September terrorist attack in the USA. The next MOIG meeting will be hosted by TotalFinaElf in Marseille, France on the 21-24 May.

MOIG OBJECTIVES

- to promote regional cooperation within the industry and between governments and industry by creating a regional network of industry oil spill response coordinators in all Mediterranean countries.
- to enhance preparedness and response to oil spill incidents in the Mediterranean region by acting as a regional forum for information exchange and discussion on oil spill matters and by making best use of industry resources of equipment and expertise for education and training.

EXERCISES / TRAINING COURSES/ EVENTS

NATIONAL OIL SPILL EXERCISE, LA CORUNA , SPAIN

IPIECA was represented by the Secretariat at a national oil spill preparedness and response exercise organised by SASEMAR (the Spanish Marine Rescue and Security Service) from the 18-19 September in La Coruna, Spain. The event was very successful and attendance included representatives from both government and industry. The first day included introductory presentations from ITOFF, OSRL, CEDRE and IPIECA. The IPIECA presentation covered the industry approach to oil spill contingency planning and introduced the IPIECA OSWG as well as the IMO / industry Global Initiative and the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG). It was also an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Spanish oil industry.



Oil Spill Exercise, La Coruna. Representatives from Spain, SASEMAR, CEDRE, ITOFF & IPIECA

NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR DECISION MAKERS

A National Training Course for Decision Makers was held in Beirut, Lebanon between 3 and 5 December 2001 on preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution. The course was conducted by REMPEC and Briggs Marine Environmental Services Ltd. (BMES, a leading UK specialists in oil spill response, oil pollution control and disaster intervention, as well as accredited training providers).

MEDEXPOL 2001, GENOA

The Regional Training Course on Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Accidents involving Hazardous Substances at the Ship-Shore Interface for on-scene commanders and senior managers, MEDEXPOL 2001 was held in Genoa between 10 and 15 December 2001 in collaboration with the Harbour Master and Coast Guard Command.

NATIONAL TRAINING COURSE FOR STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE MARINE CHEMICAL RESPONSE

A National Training Course on strategies for effective marine chemical response in port areas was held in Malta from the 7th to the 9th of January 2002. The purpose of this course was to introduce participants in a practical way to basic principles and elements of response planning and operations, necessary for timely, organised and effective response to marine chemical spills. The course was conducted by REMPEC and EnSaCo (Environmental and Safety Consultancy which aims are the prevention, quantification, and assessment of possible environmental impact; crisis management, environmental & waste management and quality management conducted the course).

TRAINING/EXERCISES/EVENTS

SAFER SEAS CLEANER SEA CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS

A week of conferences and exhibitions "Safer Seas Cleaner Sea" took place in Brest, France from the 11-16 March, 2002. The week included the following:

- a) Interspill 2002 Exhibition
- b) The IMO R & D Forum on response to heavy fuel oil (focus on response at sea)
- c) Technical Lessons learnt from the Erika incident and other oil spills (focus on shoreline response and organized by CEDRE and supported by the EC, French Ministry of the Environment and National Development and The Urban Community of Brest)
- d) Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection: Evolution and Perspectives.

More information on the various conferences can be found on the IMO website (www.imo.org) or the CEDRE website www.le-cedre.fr. A report will be given on the conferences at the next MOIG meeting in Marseille, France

Please visit the CEDRE website at www.le-cedre.fr to see their newly updated site which was completed in January 2002.

REMPEC ACTIVITIES

- From 11-13 September 2001, REMPEC participated in a Workshop on Preparedness and Response to Marine Pollution Emergencies, organized in Valletta, Malta, within the framework of the Euro-Med project on Civil Protection. Mr. Darko Domovic, Technical Expert REMPEC presented two lectures: one on the Regional System for accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, with an emphasis on the Mediterranean Region, and the other on the global system. Representatives of 12 Mediterranean Coastal States and a number of International organizations and experts attended the Workshop, which identified a number of areas where Civil Protection can contribute to the existing national preparedness and response system. Participants visited the Centre's premises at Manoel Island On 13 September, following the Workshop,

- A National Seminar on the National System for Preparedness and Response to Accidental Marine Pollution was held in Algeria on 2-3 October 2001. The Seminar was organized with a view to launching the National Tel-Bahr Committee and the preparation of the National Tel-Bahr (contingency) Plan. A set of recommendations was adopted for future work on the development of the national system.

- A Meeting of Component National Authorities of Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia took place in Algeria on 4-5 October 2001, in order to launch the development of the Subregional System for preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution for the Maghreb countries. Representatives attended from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and REMPEC. The Meeting adopted a set of conclusions aimed at developing a subregional agreement on the co-operation among the three countries concerned in the field of preparedness and response, and on preparing a subregional contingency plan.

- An *Ad hoc* Review and Progress Meeting was held in Malta on the 9 and 10 October, 2001 for the LIFE Third Countries project for risk assessment in the ports of Mersin and Iskenderun, Turkey and associated capacity building for state of readiness and for response to marine pollution. The Meeting reviewed the draft report on data collection for the two ports and discussed the workplan and timetable for the continuation of the project. Amongst the attendees were representatives from Turkish authorities, REMPEC and the EU.

MOIG MEMBERSHIP

- 2002 FEES DUE

To-date we have seven official (fully paid up) members of the MOIG.

- Elf Hydrocarbures (Syria),
- INA-Oil Industry (Croatia),
- EneMalta Corp (Malta),
- Navy Group (Lebanon)
- Turkish Petroleum Company, (Turkey),
- Societe Anonyme Marocaine (Morocco)
- TotalFinaElf (France)

We look forward to receiving outstanding contributions from the remaining MOIG members. Please contact the IPIECA Secretariat should you need an additional letter and invoice to be sent to you.

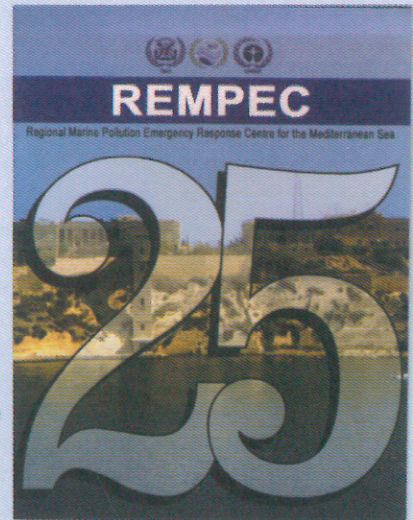
Please visit the MOIG website containing past presentations from MOIG meetings, the popular MOIG Newsletters and links to useful oil spill response sites. The MOIG website now contains a member's area which can be accessed with a username and password. Official MOIG members can obtain further details from the IPIECA Secretariat

The next MOIG meeting will be hosted by TotalFinaElf and will take place in Marseille, France from 21-24th May, 2002

REMPEC reaches its 25th Anniversary

December 11th 2001, marked the 25th Anniversary of the setting up in Malta of the Regional Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, commonly referred to as REMPEC, the first such regional Centre in the world.

Regardless of this pioneer status and many difficulties associated with this role, REMPEC has accomplished with credit its task of assisting the Mediterranean coastal States in the implementation of the Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention of 1976, and in strengthening their co-operation in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to ship-generated accidental marine pollution. Thanks to its relentless work in the fields of dissemination of information, training and making the expertise available to the countries, which so requested, the Contracting Parties are now in a far better position to deal with marine pollution incidents.



To mark this event, a special brochure was produced aimed at presenting REMPEC and its activities, and to show how the Centre contributes towards a better respect for the marine environment in the Mediterranean region, as it has done for the past 25 years.

On the 20th December 2001, the Anniversary was celebrated by a press conference during which the new brochure of the Centre was presented to Dr. Francis Zammit Dimech, Malta's Minister for the Environment. On that occasion, the Minister announced the forthcoming relocation of REMPEC to new prestigious offices.

That same evening, the Centre hosted a gala dinner at the Palazzo Parisio in Malta honored by the presence of the Malta's President Dr. Guido De Marco and Mrs. De Marco.

Furthermore, during the 25th Anniversary celebration, the Director of the Centre, Rear Admiral Roberto Patrino gave information about the finalization of the New Emergency Protocol and the extension of the mandate of the Centre to the field of the prevention of marine pollution from ships.



IPIECA

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