



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

MÅNS JACOBSSON HANDS OVER TO NEXT DIRECTOR WILLEM OOSTERVEEN

Mr Måns Jacobsson of Sweden is standing down as Director of the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) on 31 October 2006, with his successor, Mr Willem J G Oosterveen of the Netherlands, taking up office on 1 November 2006.

Måns Jacobsson has been Director of the IOPC Funds for nearly 22 years, having been elected as Director of the 1971 Fund in 1985 at the age of 45. He has also been the Director of the 1992 Fund and of the Supplementary Fund since their establishment in 1996 and 2005 respectively. Previously, Mr Jacobsson had been a Court of Appeal judge in Sweden and had 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 22 years and that he had made every effort to ensure a smooth transition to his successor. He congratulated Mr Oosterveen, saying: "It is inevitable that the IOPC Funds will continue to face new challenges. I am convinced that the new Director, with the support of the Secretariat and Member States, will rise to these challenges, in order to ensure that the international compensation regime continues to provide an efficient structure for the payment of compensation to victims of oil pollution damage."

Willem Oosterveen, who will take over as Director on his 50th birthday, has had 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 represented the Netherlands in numerous negotiations in a variety of international organisations from 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: "It is a great honour and a privilege to become the next Director of the IOPC Funds and I will do my utmost to be a worthy successor to Mr Jacobsson who, together with the other members of the Secretariat, has made me feel truly welcomed during my first two months at the Funds. I would like to stress that it is my sincere wish to be a Director for the Funds as a whole and for all Member States: big or small, developed or developing, from nearby or from far away. Whilst my core task will clearly be to run the Secretariat in such a way that the IOPC Funds operate smoothly for the benefit of the international community, I believe that there is much more to the post of Director, particularly the future development of the Organisations."

Mr Oosterveen, who was elected by the governing bodies in October 2005, joined the Secretariat on 1 September 2006 and will take over as Director on 1 November 2006. Mr Jacobsson retained full responsibility for the Organisations up to 31 October 2006 and will continue to be available until his retirement on 31 December 2006.

London, 31 October 2006

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 £161 million (\$300 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 £593 million (\$1 100 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 amounts referred to above are in the Conventions expressed in Special Drawing Right (SDR).
10. Conversion of currencies in these notes has been made on the basis of the rates at 12 October 2006, ie 1 SDR = US\$1.467480 = £0.791008.