



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND 1992

ASSEMBLY
11th extraordinary session
Agenda item 7

92FUND/A/ES.11/7
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GRANT OF OBSERVER STATUS

Note by the Director

Summary:	The International Association of Classification Societies Ltd (IACS) has applied for observer status with the 1992 Fund.
Action to be taken:	Decide whether to grant observer status to the IACS.

1 The issue

1.1 Article 18.10 of the 1992 Fund Convention provides that the Assembly determines which intergovernmental and international non-governmental organisations shall be admitted to take part, without voting rights, in meetings of the Assembly and subsidiary bodies. The Assembly adopted at its 1st session "Guidelines on Relations between the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992 (1992 Fund) and Intergovernmental Organisations and International Non-Governmental Organisations" (document 92FUND/A.1/34/1). These guidelines contain the following criteria for the granting of observer status to international non-governmental organisations:

Observer status may be granted by the Assembly to an international non-governmental organisation, at its request, if:

- (a) the organisation concerned is of truly international character and its objectives are in harmony with those of the 1992 Fund;
- (b) it has aims, responsibilities or activities in the fields related to those of the 1992 Fund or which are of concern or interest to the 1992 Fund, particularly in connection with pollution and environmental matters, maritime and shipping affairs, marine insurance, production or transport of oil or relevant questions of international law; and
- (c) it is able to make a contribution to the work of the 1992 Fund, for example by providing specialised information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants, or by otherwise furnishing technical assistance or by making research facilities available.

- 1.2 Sixteen non-governmental organisations have observer status to the 1992 Fund (ACOPS, BIMCO, CEFIC, CMI, CPMR, Cristal Limited, FETSA, FOEI, INTERTANKO, ICS, the International Group of P&I Clubs, ISU, ITOPF, IUCN, IUMI and OCIMF).
- 1.3 The International Association of Classification Societies Ltd (IACS) has requested observer status with the 1992 Fund.
- 1.4 IACS has provided the following information concerning the organisation:

IACS is a non-governmental organisation in consultative status with IMO since 1969 and is IMO's premier technical advisor. IACS attends practically all Committee and sub-committee meetings.

The IACS Secretariat is based in London, headed by the Permanent Secretary and consists of the Permanent Representative to IMO, two Senior Technical Officers and several administrative staff.

IACS has ten full members and one associate member, namely:

American Bureau of Shipping
Bureau Veritas
China Classification Society
Det Norske Veritas
Germanischer Lloyd
Korean Register of Shipping
Lloyd's Register
Class NK
Registro Italiano Navale
Russian Maritime Register of Shipping
Indian Register of Shipping (associate member)

IACS is governed by a Council, with each Member represented by a high-level management figure. Under the Council is the General Policy Group (GPG), made up of a senior management figure from each Member, which develops and implements actions giving effect to the policies, directions and long term plans of Council. The chair of GPG is taken by the Member holding the Council chair. There are four Panels reporting to GPG which cover Statutory, Hull, Machinery and Survey matters.

Compliance with the IACS Quality System Certification Scheme (QSCS) and observance of the IACS Code of Ethics is mandatory for both IACS Member and Associate status.

Dedicated to safe ships and clean seas, IACS makes a unique contribution to maritime safety and regulation through technical support, compliance verification and research and development. More than 90% of the world's cargo carrying tonnage is covered by the classification design, construction and through-life compliance Rules and standards set by the ten Member Societies and the Associate Member of IACS.

- 1.5 It will be recalled that the Assembly decided, at its February/March 2006 session, that representatives from *inter alia* classification societies should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Working Group established by the Assembly on non-technical measures to promote quality shipping for carriage of oil at sea, which will meet on 23 and 24 May 2006 (document 92FUND/A/ES.10/18, paragraph 5.10).

- 1.6 The Director is of the view that IACS meets the criteria for the granting of observer status to international non-governmental organisations set out in paragraph 1.1 and therefore recommends that the organisation should be granted observer status to the 1992 Fund.

2 Action to be taken by the Assembly

The Assembly is invited:

- (a) to consider whether the International Association of Classification Societies Ltd (IACS) fulfils the criteria laid down in the above-mentioned guidelines; and
 - (b) to take a decision on its application for observer status.
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