



INTERNATIONAL  
OIL POLLUTION  
COMPENSATION  
FUND 1971

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
54th session  
Agenda item 3

71FUND/EXC.54/3/1  
13 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

## INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE 1971 FUND

### SEA EMPRESS

Note by the United Kingdom Delegation

#### 1 Introduction

1.1 In papers 71FUND/EXC.48/2/1, 71FUND/EXC.49/9/1 and 71FUND/EXC.52/7/1 the United Kingdom presented an analysis of likely total compensation payments following the *Sea Empress* incident. In these papers, we expressed our hope that the Fund would soon be in a position to make payments at 100% of eligible claims.

1.2 At the 53rd meeting of the Executive Committee, it emerged that claims for tourism losses were very unlikely to exceed £4 million. The Director's analysis at that meeting suggested that the fishery claims may be as high as £15 million.

1.3 At the 53rd meeting of the Executive Committee, it also became clear that up to an additional £20 million would be available for *Sea Empress* claimants from CRISTAL, in the event that the 1971 Fund limit of £51 million proved insufficient.

1.4 The following updated information is provided for the information of the Executive Committee.

Likely Claims (£ million)	Low	High
Clean-up operations	22	23
Preventive measures (salvage)	0	4
Fishing industry	8	10 [15*]
Tourism industry	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>41 [46*]</b>

\* - as with the Director's estimate at the 53rd Executive Committee. The UK has seen no evidence to suggest that the maximum figure for eligible claims will be over £10 million - the total annual value of the whole south-west Wales and Bristol Channel fisheries is £15 million.

**2 Conclusion**

The United Kingdom remains of the view that the total amounts of claims following the *Sea Empress* will not exceed the limit of liability for the shipowner and the 1971 Fund. In the light of this and the scope for some £20 million of additional funding being available from CRISTAL, we again urge the Committee to authorise the Director to make payments at 100% of eligible claims.

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