



INTERNATIONAL  
OIL POLLUTION  
COMPENSATION  
FUND

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
34th session  
Agenda item 5

FUND/EXC.34/8  
10 March 1993

Original: ENGLISH

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### TRANSLATION OF IOPC FUND DOCUMENTS

Note by the Director

#### Introduction

1 The translation of IOPC Fund documents has been carried out by IMO since the establishment of the Fund. Certain problems have now arisen in this regard. The Executive Committee is therefore invited to consider this matter.

#### Present Arrangements

2 The services rendered by IMO in respect of, inter alia, translation, production and circulation of documentation is governed by the Agreement of Co-operation between IMO (then IMCO) and the IOPC Fund, approved by the IMO Council at its 42nd session in March 1979 (document C XLII/25, ANNEX I) and by the IOPC Fund Assembly at its 2nd session in March 1979 (document FUND/A.2/14). The Agreement contains the following provision under Item 6, Administrative Arrangements:

"The Secretary-General of IMCO and the Director of the Fund may enter into such administrative arrangements for the implementation of this Agreement, including arrangements for the provision of assistance and the payment or reimbursement of expenditure in connexion with any such assistance, as may be necessary or desirable."

3 In order to enable the IOPC Fund to function with a small Secretariat, as envisaged by its founding Member States, the Fund is dependent on the implementation of the Administrative Arrangements agreed with IMO. Pursuant to this objective, the IMO Director of Administration circulated a memorandum, ADMIN/81/4 of 28 January 1981, to Staff Members in the Administrative and Conference Division of IMO, relating to, inter alia, the translation of documents.

### The Problem

4 Over the years, the IOPC Fund has always appreciated the high quality of the translation service and the efficiency with which this service has been given. For this reason, the Director would prefer that the present arrangements be maintained. The IMO French Translation Section has, however, during the last two years, found it demanding to continue to translate IOPC Fund documents, due to an increase in the documentation within IMO and the freeze on two posts of translators since 1 January 1990, for budgetary reasons. The Director understands the difficulties which the IMO French Translation Section has encountered during the last two years and accepts, therefore, that some modifications of the present arrangements may have to be made.

5 At its 15th session, the Assembly was informed by the Director that the greatly increased volume of documents and reports issued by the IOPC Fund in recent years had given rise to problems for IMO in providing a translation service. He proposed that he be authorised to discuss this matter with the Secretary-General of IMO in order to find a mutually acceptable solution to these problems. The Assembly invited the Director to discuss this matter with the Secretary-General and authorised him to agree with the Secretary-General on such modifications of the present procedures for translating documents as would be appropriate and acceptable to both IMO and the IOPC Fund (document FUND/A.15/28, paragraph 29.4).

### Director's Considerations

6 The most radical solution would be that the IOPC Fund should have its documents translated elsewhere, without in any way involving the IMO French Translation Section. This would, in the Director's view, be a very poor solution, since the IOPC Fund would not be able to develop the same co-operation with an outside translation firm as the Fund has with IMO, nor obtain the same quality of work as it has received over the years from IMO.

7 The other possibility would be to examine whether the IOPC Fund could in any way contribute towards strengthening the resources of the IMO French Translation Section, so as to ensure that IMO would be able to continue to translate the IOPC Fund documents at the same speed and quality as hitherto. One way of doing this might be to recruit one further translator to be financed by the IOPC Fund.

8 It might appear natural that such a translator should be employed by the IOPC Fund. In the view of the Director, such a solution would not be viable for the following reasons. Firstly, having only one translator from say English to French would make the IOPC Fund highly vulnerable during periods of annual leave or sickness. It would also be very difficult during the initial period after the appointment of such a translator and in the event that the translator were to leave the Fund. A translator working alone in the IOPC Fund would also not have the benefit of discussions and co-operation with colleagues, which is very important for the IMO translators in ensuring the high quality of their work.

9 In the view of the Director, the best solution would be that an extra translator should be employed as an IMO staff member, but financed by the IOPC Fund. This would mean that IMO would be free to use this translator in any way it feels necessary, so as to strengthen the capacity of the French Translation Section in general. It would also mean that IMO could continue to give the IOPC Fund a full translation service from English to French, as it has done in the past. As the IOPC Fund would not pay IMO per page translated from English to French, IMO might wish to place a limit on the number of pages to be translated per annum from English to French by IMO for the IOPC Fund, say 600 pages. It might be appropriate to limit the agreement to a period of five years, subject to review.

10 The financial support by the IOPC Fund would cover the ordinary salary of this translator (say at level P3), including contributions to the United Nations Pension Fund System and any other social security costs for the post in question. The annual cost would be approximately £40 000.

11 The number of pages translated by IMO for the IOPC Fund was 372 in 1991 and 299 in 1992, and the cost amounted to £18 600 and £13 450, respectively. It is likely that the number of pages to be translated will be between 300 and 400 for the next few years. If the 1992 Protocols were to come into force, there would be a considerable increase in the volume of translation. It should be noted that the fee for the translation of difficult texts in the London market is approximately £100 – £110 per 1 000 words, or £50 – £55 per page, which for 400 pages would give a total cost of some £20 000.

12 The Director's proposal has been discussed with the Director of the IMO Conference Division, who has received it favourably. The matter has not yet been discussed with the Secretary-General of IMO.

13 In view of the urgency of the matter, the Executive Committee may wish to consider whether it agrees in principle with the solution proposed by the Director. The Committee may also wish to give the Director such instructions as it may deem appropriate concerning the discussions with the Secretary-General, pursuant to Article 26.1(b)(i) and (iii) of the Fund Convention.

**Action to be Taken by the Executive Committee**

14 The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document and give the Director such instructions as it deems appropriate regarding the proposed arrangements with IMO in respect of translations.

---