

## **Check-list of principal institutional provisions aimed at facilitating mutual assistance in case of a major marine pollution accident which should be included in National Contingency Plans**

A quick intervention and facilitation of mutual assistance in the case of a major marine pollution accident must be planned and organised. To this end, within the National Contingency Plan, special institutional arrangements should be adopted and administrative and financial arrangements should be established, such as:

1. designation of the competent national authority which, once the situation has been assessed, will determine the extent of the required assistance;
2. designation of a national authority entitled to act on behalf of the State to request assistance or to decide to provide the requested assistance, as well as to deal with the legal and financial aspects of mutual assistance, and arrangements which would enable this authority to be contacted rapidly in case of an urgent request for assistance;
3. financial modalities applicable to mutual assistance, based on the recommendations adopted by the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, Cairo, 8-11 October 1991 (UNEP(OCA)/MED.IG.2/4 Annex IV);
4. roles and obligations of the Party requesting assistance concerning:
  - a) the receipt of equipment;
  - b) costs of board and lodging, possible medical expenses and repatriation of assisting personnel;
  - c) arrangements, in particular concerning customs and immigration, for facilitating the movement of personnel, vessels, aircraft and equipment, based on the provisions of the Guidelines for Co-operation in Combating Marine Oil Pollution in the Mediterranean as adopted by the Fifth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Athens, 7-11 September 1987 (UNEP/IG.74/5).