

**GUIDELINES CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE MADE
WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING, IN CASE OF AN ACCIDENT,
LIAISON BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES
AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES**

*Adopted by the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention,
Barcelona, 5-8 June 1995 (UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, Annex XII, Appendix IV)*

1. The competent national authorities of a Contracting Party affected by a marine pollution incident threatening its territorial sea, coasts and related interests shall endeavour to establish and maintain, throughout all phases of the planning and implementation of response activities, liaison with other parties having an interest in the pollution incident (further on referred to as "interested parties"), including the owners of the ship(s) and the cargo and, in particular, their insurers and their respective technical advisors and experts.
2. The objective of such liaison shall primarily be to obtain and exchange necessary technical information required for the planning and implementation of appropriate pollution response measures, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of response operations, to reducing the effects of pollution on the environment and resources at risk, and to reducing the overall costs of the pollution response measures, and to consider possible legal and financial implications of taken or planned response actions. This information shall *inter alia* include:
 - a) on the part of the relevant interested parties: information concerning the ship and the cargo involved in the incident, response measures taken or planned by these parties, resources, including personnel, equipment and other means, which these parties have available for responding to the incident, contingency plans prepared by them, and the availability of funds through ship's/cargo's insurers;
 - b) on the part of the competent national authorities of the affected Contracting Party: information concerning the national organization for accidental marine pollution response, national and local contingency plans, available resources including personnel, equipment and other means, arrangements made or planned by the competent national authorities for responding to the pollution incident, and national laws and regulations covering the field of accidental marine pollution, including liability and compensation.
3. In order to ensure the permanent liaison with other parties having an interest in the pollution incident, the competent national authorities of the Contracting Party affected by such an incident shall request other interested parties to designate persons who will be in permanent contact with the competent national authorities in charge of the response operations.
4. The competent national authorities shall ensure that the persons designated by the government to act as counterparts to the contact persons designated by the representatives of other interested parties have a good knowledge of the technical, legal and financial issues related to marine pollution incidents, including liability and compensation schemes.