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## 4. REQUESTING AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE

**Requesting and providing assistance for combatting spillages of oil or other harmful substances at sea according to Annex VII, Regulation 8 of the Helsinki Convention}**

### 4.1 REQUESTING PARTY

Request for assistance from a Contracting Party (requesting Party) in case of a major spillage of oil or other harmful substance at sea as well as resulting oiled wildlife in order to perform combatting operations and/or oiled wildlife response shall be made by the competent authority of that Party and addressed to the competent authority of another Contracting Party (assisting Party).

A request by telephone shall always be followed by a written confirmation by a competent authority of the requesting Party.

Requested assistance will be subject to the responsibility of the requesting Party. Personnel from the assisting Party is assigned to the competent authority of the requesting Party. Such personnel may only be transferred to other authorities or organizations of the requesting Party with the approval of the assisting Party.

The requesting Party is responsible for the necessary domestic arrangements for the border passage and the housing of the assisting resources as well as the necessary arrangements for collected oil, rescued or dead oiled wildlife, and provision of maintenance facilities.

Request for assistance can consist of:

- specified equipment only;
- specified equipment with trained personnel;
- complete strike teams;
- personnel with special expertise;
- aerial surveillance.

Strike teams referred to above consist of:

- combatting ships and work boats and equipment for
  - communication
  - personal safety (protective suits, breathing apparatus, etc.)
  - combatting marine pollution
  - storage of limited quantities of recovered oil, etc., on board (if tank capacity is available);
- trained crews and personnel for handling the equipment;

- National On-Scene Commander (NOSC) with necessary staff independently able to conduct the work of the strike teams according to instructions from the appointed Supreme On-Scene Commander (SOSC).

## **4.2 ASSISTING PARTY**

The assisting Party shall be prepared to give information on the financial consequences connected with the requested assistance.

The assisting Party shall use its best endeavours to bring about the requested assistance and to decide to which extent the request can be complied with.

The assisting Party shall be prepared to appoint liaison officers to the staff of the Operational Control of the requesting Party in order to secure necessary knowledge of rendered national resources.

## **4.3 DISPATCHING OF RESOURCES**

Both parties should make a preliminary agreement concerning the proper dispatching of the resources provided as well as concerning a survey and assessment of consumed stocks, including damaged or contaminated equipment (cf. Chapter 6 of Part I).

## **4.4 TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

If the circumstances so demand, the assisting Party can fully or partly terminate its assistance. Information on the termination shall be communicated to the competent authority of the requesting Party.