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## Workshop: Analysis of Recent Major Accidents 5-7 February 2002

The Community Workshop "Analysis of Recent Major Accidents", funded by the EU Commission Directorate-General Environment, provided a forum on which to discuss and analyse the past 15 years of maritime accidents involving large or difficult oil spills.

"Analysis of Recent Major Accidents" was held from 5-7 February 2002 in Hotel Schiphol A4 in The Netherlands and organised by the Dutch consulting firm, EnSaCo. Representatives from seven EU Member States attended this workshop and contributed their expertise in the field of pollution response.

### Goal:

The goal of this workshop was to analyse recent major maritime accidents involving oil pollutants at sea according to a pre-determined analysis structure. Information covering most aspects and issues with respect to oil spill response at sea and on the coast were presented and discussed with a view to compiling the main lessons learned into a useable tool for further response improvements. The accidents presented included:

Incident	Place	Date	Presented by:
Aragón	Coast of Madiera	Dec. 1989	Capt. J.M. Uribe (SASEMAR)
Khark V	African Coast	Dec. 1989	Capt J.M. Uribe (SASEMAR)
Haven	Genoa, Italy	Mar. 1991	Ms. C. Farchi (ICRAM)
Aegean Sea	Coast of Spain	Dec. 1992	Capt. J.M. Uribe (SASEMAR)
Sea Empress	Milford Haven, Wales	Feb. 1996	Mr. K. Colcomb (MCA) Mr. L.C. Backus (RWS)
Cork Harbour	Cork Harbour, Ireland	Nov. 1997	Capt. M. McCarthy (Port of Cork Company)
Erika	Coast of France	Dec. 1999	Ms. Anne Le Roux (Cedre) Mr. L.C. Backus (RWS)



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### Target group

Individuals directly involved in the response to the above-mentioned accidents with an operational and/or decision-making role were invited to attend this workshop. Delegates were asked to present a discussion paper during the workshop, relating their role and experience during the incident. An additional delegate from each participating country, also expert in the field of oil pollution response, was invited to attend. In addition to the presentations and discussions of incidents, a standard analysis framework was tested. This framework proved to be a valuable tool in the structuring of information gathered during an incident, allowing the possibility for a more comprehensive analysis and evaluation.

A separate presentation was given by Cedre outlining the development of an extensive database to document the response and ongoing cleanup in the aftermath of the Erika incident.

### Results:

The most important results of this workshop were the collective "Main lessons learned" from the cases presented and the further development of a European response network. Specific issues included:

- 1 A pre-determined media strategy is necessary to keep the media accurately informed and to decrease the pressure on responders;
- 2 Aerial guidance is essential during a response action;
- 3 Multidisciplinary training is required to further the co-operation and understanding between response organisation and authorities on a local, regional, national and international level. Training should also take into account different types of oils, at different locations and under various weather conditions;
- 4 Development of an international stockpile of response equipment to cover all (or most) response needs;
- 5 Further the development of a standard analysis framework, with special emphasis on the legal and financial issues;
- 6 Continue to compare old and new incidents to further refine the understanding of common factors that contribute to successful response performance;
- 7 Facilitate the further strengthening of a regional / national / international response network.