

INFORMAL MEETING ON THE 2010 HNS CONVENTION

**APRIL 30, 2014
LONDON, UK**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. François Marier of Canada as Coordinator of the HNS Correspondence Group.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following states, associate members, intergovernmental organizations and observer delegations:

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey, United States, Faroe Islands, European Commission, IMO, IOPC Funds, BIMCO, ICS, International Group of P&I Clubs and the Nautical Institute.

1. HNS Correspondence Group Means of Communication

1.1 The Correspondence Group will communicate using two means: by email and through the HNS Protocol Blog (<http://hnsprotocol.wordpress.com/>) as an effective way of posting documents and other pertinent information. The representatives of the IOPC Funds Secretariat indicated that the Blog is public and any member of the Correspondence Group can contribute. A link to the Blog is available through the HNS Convention's website (<http://www.hnsconvention.org>).

2. Status of Implementation

2.1 Updates on the implementation of the HNS Convention were provided by the following states:

- Denmark: Legislation has already been adopted and the reporting requirements will become mandatory starting in 2015 and these are following the Guidelines endorsed by the IMO Legal Committee.
- Sweden: A Bill is being drafted to be introduced in late 2014 or early 2015. The reporting would then take place in 2016. There have been discussions concerning the impact and cost of the HNS Fund on the chemical industry and questions as to how much the Fund would cost in terms of administration and compensation.
- Malaysia: The text of the Convention is being drafted into law and there is a need to ensure the reporting mechanisms are in place and avoid duplication. Potential contributors have been identified and the government is looking at the most efficient way to proceed.
- Norway: Public consultations on the adoption of the Convention are ending on June 26, 2014 and a Bill will soon follow. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for this aspect.

3. Issues and Actions for the Correspondence Group

- 3.1 The delegation of Denmark committed to sharing the link to the English version of its HNS contributing cargo reporting requirements on the HNS Protocol Blog.
- 3.2 The delegation of Sweden referred to document LEG 80/10/2, which includes a provisional estimate of HNS receipts. The document will be posted on the HNS Protocol Blog and the delegation inquired whether the estimates could be updated by States themselves.
- 3.3 The question was asked whether there was an update available of the document LEG/CONF.17/6 submitted by the International Group of P&I Clubs, which is an analysis of HNS claims data between 2002 and 2010. The delegation of the International Group of P&I Clubs indicated that to do so would be a significant undertaking by the individual Clubs and to their knowledge there was no recent HNS incident that would have been significant to impact this analysis in any way.
- 3.4 The delegation of France referred to the revision of the FAL Convention and the Belgian proposal to include the name of the receiver of HNS on the FAL Form 7 Dangerous Good Manifest. The document would be shared on the HNS Protocol Blog to inform delegations attending the meetings of FAL and its working group.
- 3.5 The delegation of the Netherlands indicated that regional interests and port competition are important matters for that delegation and stakeholders in the Netherlands. It asked whether any lessons learned from the entry into force of the CLC and Fund Convention could be shared with the Correspondence Group and if those who triggered the entry into force were mainly large contributors to the IOPC Fund and if the entry into force was done in a coordinated fashion. The Coordinator replied that he would search for any relevant information concerning the entry into force of the CLC and Fund Convention. This information could then be shared and discussed within the HNS Correspondence Group.
- 3.6 The delegation of Turkey referred to its idea of creating an HNS Promotion Group, which would consist of national experts who would undergo a special training in order to assist in the promotion of the HNS Convention. A proposal will be circulated within the Correspondence Group in advance of the next IOPC Funds meeting in October.
- 3.7 The representatives of the IOPC Funds provided an update on its activities, which included attending workshops in Malaysia and Malta.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The Coordinator of the Correspondence Group will draft a report of the meeting and share it along with a list of members of the Group.
- 4.2 With regards to the report of the Correspondence Group to the 102nd session of the IMO Legal Committee, the Coordinator will draft a report and circulate it among the members of the Correspondence Group for comment in due course.