



1. SITUATION

In the last days the MIC Marine Pollution Assessment and Coordination (MPAC) team has been working in Fishermen's Wharf and at Ramlah Baida beach. The French oil cleansing equipment has been put into use.

The overall situation has not changed greatly in the last week. There is still floating oil in some confined areas, but these has been secured with booms and the work of skimming free oil in confined areas should be finished within 1 – 2 weeks if nothing unforeseen happens. The skimming of oil in Moevenpick marina started yesterday. (Picture attached).

Detailed surveys of the beaches are continuing. Beach cleaning has taken place at the public beach in Beirut. Today the MPAC team will conduct a training session on beach cleaning at Jounie beach, whose purpose is to train the trainers. These trainers are appointed as key persons in the beach cleaning operation.

During the last week the MPAC team has put a lot of effort into making the organization within the MoE work (OSOCC). Results of this work are now starting to show and the majority of the work has shifted into making a *National Action Plan for the Oil Sill Clean Up*. A subgroup working on a plan to secure that all polluted solid waste is treated in a proper manner has been established. The liquid oil collected from the water is still brought to a temporary storage tank in Beirut (capacity 4.000 ton).

2. EU RESPONSE

The Finnish assistance for Lebanon oil spill operations consists of four ready equipped 21 foot sea containers for shoreline booming and for sheltered waters oil recovery: each containing about 345 meters light boom to shelter shoreline, necessary robes, anchors and buoys, a small brush skimmer with a power back, a temporary storage basin of 4 cubic meters, absorbents and protective gear for 4 persons.

Most probably the Finnish assistance would be loaded on the same ship, which is bringing Spanish assistance to Lebanon and is scheduled to depart from Barcelona on 12 September.

The MIC has also received the following information:

The Italian team had been working on a project to collect the sunken oil near Jiye power station and to make an underwater survey of the coast. Their further engagement in this operation should be known soon. Before starting work near the power plant the area needs to be screened for UXO's.

The Swedish experts left the site on Thursday evening (31/8).

3. REQUIREMENTS

With the French equipment working on site and accepted Spanish and Finnish assistance on its way, there is at this moment no need for other specialised equipment.

The contract of the existing MPAC team in Beirut is coming to an end on 11 September 2006. Since the EU oil cleansing activities continue, it is necessary to replace the outgoing team with new experts. Therefore the MIC is looking for **experts** that can be mobilized to continue assisting in the following: (1) to follow up on the "action plan" support: on-site training of local staff on the use of the oil cleansing equipment; (2) supervision of the clean-up operations; (3) coordination of the incoming European oil spill cleansing assistance.

The participating member states are invited to propose suitable candidates for an estimated period of 2-4 weeks.

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