



**Situation update**

- An estimated quantity of **10,000 – 15,000 tons** of medium/heavy fuel oil has contaminated almost 200 km of coastline north of the source of pollution (Jiyeh). The spill occurred on 13 July (approx 12,000 tons) and 15 July 2006 (3,000 tons). The pollution is now mainly coastal rather than marine pollution.
  - the coast about 15 km north of Trablous up to Tartus,
  - Area in front of Tartous 10 km off the coast,
  - Along the coast 10 Km north of Trablous up to Jableh (approximately 10 km south of Al Lathqiyah and 80 km north of the Syria-Lebanon border). This location represents the present northern limit of the oil slick that originated at the Jieh Power Plant.
- The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) and REMPEC (Regional Emergency Centre for the Mediterranean Sea) have informed us about the results of an operational oil spill modelling application carried out in the North East Levantine Basin, using the MEDSLICK- Mediterranean oil spill model. The conclusions indicated that :
  - approximately 80% of the oil remains on the Lebanese shoreline
  - approximately 20 % of the oil evaporated
  - 0.08 % still remains in the coastal sea areas of Lebanon
- According to some modelling and simulation studies, part of the spill could move northward and might affect neighbouring countries.
- The MIC has activated the Satellite Charter "Space and Major Disasters" to obtain satellite images of the area. The first images can be downloaded on:

[http://www.zki.dlr.de/applications/2006/lebanon/lebanon\\_2006\\_en.html](http://www.zki.dlr.de/applications/2006/lebanon/lebanon_2006_en.html)

The Lebanese authorities and interested organisations have been informed accordingly.

- The oil spill team of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) has produced an updated report on the oil spill dated 6 August 2006 ( **attached - sent by e-mail only** )

### **Assistance offered so far**

Norway has offered nine metric tonnes of material assistance free of charge and it has been accepted by the Lebanese authorities. The Lebanese authorities are in close contact with the MIC and are currently planning how the assistance can be received.

On 4 August 2006 Denmark nominated a team of three experts to the MIC. The Lebanese Ministry of Environment accepted this offer on 5 August 2006.

Several Member States have expressed their willingness to provide assistance once the hostilities in the region have ceased. All these offers of assistance have been submitted to the Lebanese authorities.

### **Civil Protection Mechanism is sending a three-person expert team on site**

On Sunday evening 6 August 2006, the MIC oil pollution expert team leaves Denmark and is expected to reach Beirut sometime 7-8 August 2006 via Damascus. The team consist of two experts in coastal oil pollution clean up from the Danish Emergency Management Agency and one expert in combating marine oil pollution from the Danish Defence.

The team will assist Lebanon in planning and executing the plan for the oil pollution clean up including setting up training activities for Lebanese voluntary helpers.

## **The request for assistance in MIC Message 3 is still valid**

### **Coordination at regional and international level**

The MIC remains in close contact with the joint UNEP-OCHA Environmental Unit, with REMPEC, and with the coordinating Unit of the MAP (Mediterranean action plan)

The MIC invites the countries participating in the Community Civil Protection Mechanism to inform the MIC about the assistance they could make available, including financial arrangements.

**Request for assistance:**  yes       no; future request:     probable       not yet known  
Type of assistance     material       intervention team       expert or assessment team

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