



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**OSCE Center in Ashgabad
in co-operation with the
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

Report

**"Technical Workshop on Oil Spills Response and Remediation:
Status of Regional Co-operation in the Caspian Sea, available Technologies
and Exchange of Best Practices from the OSCE Region"**

Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, 10-11 March 2008

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Executive Summary

The Caspian Sea littoral countries have expressed their concerns regarding the pollution of land and seas by oil spills during the Environment and Security consultations in the South Caucasus¹ (Azerbaijan) and the preparatory meetings to the ENVSEC Eastern Caspian Sea² consultations (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan).

As a follow up to the OSCE Economic Forum in 2007 dedicated to address the “Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management” and with the support of the Spanish delegation and the OSCE Center in Ashgabad, a technical workshop on “Oil Spills Response and Remediation: Status of regional co-operation in the Caspian Sea, available technologies and exchange of best practices from the OSCE region” was organized in Turkmenbashi, from 10 to 11 March 2008.

The workshop was organized back to back to the second Preparatory Conference to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum - "Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment", thus gaining from the discussions already started during the Conference on 6 and 7 March and facilitating the participation of a wider number of international experts.

The workshop, aimed at government officials from the Caspian Region³, gathered representatives of Emergency response, Environmental protection and Foreign Affairs Ministries, as well as experts from the Private Sector, International Organization and Civil Society. The aim was to discuss how the OSCE and other competent organizations could play a role in ensuring that environment and security linkages related to oil spills response and remediation were addressed in the Caspian Region.

During the workshop participants from Caspian Sea littoral states (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan) presented national problems, international experiences, lessons learned and exchanged views with international experts on the best possible way forward in developing oil spills response programmes in the Caspian Sea region. The workshop aimed at identifying the best oil spills remediation technologies and set up a framework for co-operation between OSCE and other international Organizations in oil spills related activities.

In order to build on common synergies, OSCE sought co-operation with several international organizations and the private sector active in oil spills response and remediation and environmental protection, in particular, the International Maritime Organization, the Caspian Environmental Programme, and Oil Spills Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI), all of which have a proven record of activities in the Caspian Sea.

The Workshop was structured in three plenary sessions, with keynote speakers, and a plenary discussion to facilitate the dialogue and exchange of ideas between the participants on the different key topics.

¹ Environment and Security. The Case of the Southern Caucasus. UNDP, UNEP, OSCE 2004

² The ENVSEC Eastern Caspian Sea Assessment will be published in 2008

³ OSCE participating States in the Caspian region: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan

A total of 50 participants attended the Workshop, contributing with their ideas and experience to its success, reflected in the large number of concrete recommendations for the OSCE.

Among the recommendations, the importance to enhance the capacity of the countries of the region to implement the regional agreements signed (Teheran Convention and OPRC Convention (International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation)) was highlighted. Another recommendation was the development of a Regional Contingency Plan for the Caspian Sea, including an assessment and mapping of the environmental sensitivity and risks from oil spills.

The OSCE could also support public participation and the involvement of local communities and civil society representatives to empower them for providing an active participation in the event of an oil spill. To continue the discussions and further refine the proposals it was suggested that a second event in Baku could take place later in 2008.

Background and Justification

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 exposed to the world the regime's poor environmental record, in particular in the Caspian. Rusty derricks, poisoned soil and water, pools of oil scum and uncontrolled well fires were by-products of the mismanagement of oil exploitation in the Caspian region since the beginning of the 20-th century. The long history of contamination means that threats to the Caspian environment from oil and gas production will continue to grow.

Oil-related accidents occur at least annually and oil pollution in some parts of the Caspian now stands at almost twelve times the maximum permissible concentration. The main sources of oil pollution include discharges of hydrogen sulphides from cracks in oil deposits, the accumulation of toxic substances and discharges of solutions from wells.

Transportation (oil tankers traffic) as a growing potential source of oil spills in the Caspian Sea, both from the oil cargos and from the ships' own engines. It is expected that the shipping traffic in the Caspian will increase in the coming years, as shown in the graphics below.

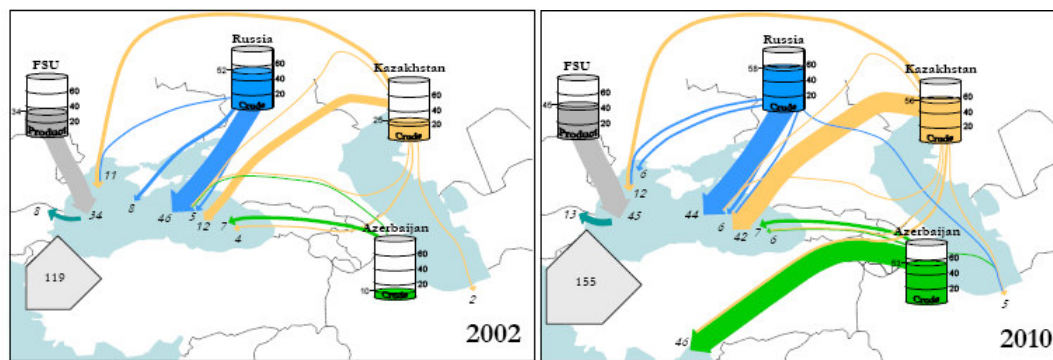


Figure 1: Annual volumes of seaborne oil exports in the region, 2002 and 2010

Source: (OSPRI Briefing Paper) - CERA December 2005, figures rounded to nearest million metric tonnes

The effects of oil and gas exploration and production in the Caspian region have been felt most strongly in Azerbaijan, where a century's worth of oil production has resulted in acute soil degradation and contamination problems, particularly on the Absheron peninsula. Scant environmental consideration was given to industrial and energy development in Azerbaijan, with disastrous consequences. Oil production has left behind vast areas of wasteland, with standing oil ponds and severely contaminated soil, a shore along Baku Bay that is black with oil residue, and high levels of pollution in the Caspian Sea.

While Azerbaijan has been hardest hit by pollution from oil exploitation, other littoral and neighbouring states also have been adversely affected. In Kazakhstan, environmental tests have noted that cases of blood disease, tuberculosis and other diseases are four times more common in the Caspian area than the rest of the country's average. Although the tests showed that the environmental contamination in the Northeast Caspian is less than what has been recorded previously, water that has been contaminated by oil products in Kazakhstan is still used for drinking water. This contamination is cited as a main reason for intestinal infections in Kazakhstan's coastal areas⁴.

Because of its landlocked nature, the process of self-purification in the Caspian takes approximately 40 years. This means that unless a comprehensive programme of environmental regeneration is launched in the foreseeable future, the consequences of the current crisis will be dramatic.

A number of advanced response technologies are available for controlling oil spills and minimizing their impact on human health and the environment. Each method (mechanical containment or recovery, chemical and biological methods, physical methods, and scare tactics) has its own advantages, disadvantages and limitations, and the best approach needs to be assessed in the light of individual circumstances. None of the Caspian Sea countries currently possesses adequate supplies of specialised oil spill response equipment and materials. Most of them base their response strategies on the tiered system and thus expect oil companies and transporters to maintain and implement adequate response equipment and materials for small spills. It is clear that all countries would still require international assistance in better responding to oil spills situation.

OSCE's Involvement

The OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension states that “the protection of the environment is a high priority for all our States. In light of the growing impact of environmental factors on the prosperity, stability and security of our States and the health of our populations, we encourage dialogue and the exchange of information, inter alia, on best practices, on a voluntary basis, on environmental issues of importance for participating States, including on environmentally sound technology”.

In Kazakhstan, the OSCE Centre in Almaty organized a Public Hearing on “Liquidation of Oil Spills in the Caspian Sea: Realities and Solutions” in Atyrau, April 2004, which recommended a set of measures based on the "Liquidation and conservation of oil wells and hydro-geological well springs" programme of the National Sea and Inland Water Reservoir Oil Spills Prevention Response Plan of Kazakhstan.

⁴ Energy Information Administration US Government (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>)

The technical workshop on oil spills remediation in the Caspian Sea region also complements the "Workshop on transport, security and environment: experience of regional co-operation in the High North to promote safe and secure multimodal corridors while protecting a fragile environment. Identifying best practices", which took place on October 16-18, 2006 in Tønsberg, Norway and was organized by the Kingdom of Norway in cooperation with the OSCE OCEEA.

Finally, the workshop is also a follow up to the OSCE Economic Forum in 2007 dedicated to address the "Key challenges to ensure environmental security and sustainable development in the OSCE area: Land degradation, soil contamination and water management".

The workshop should lead to a better understanding of the situation of soil and water contamination caused by oil spills and potential remediation projects/program in the Caspian Sea region.

Welcoming Address

Mr. Marc Baltes, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, on behalf of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all let me thank the Turkmen authorities for hosting this important workshop in Turkmenbashi today. It is a privilege for all of us to conduct our discussions at the shores of the Caspian Sea. On behalf of the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe I welcome all of you and I have the honor to deliver the following message on behalf of Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE.

Some of us had the opportunity to attend the Second Preparatory Conference for the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum “Maritime and inland waterways co-operation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment” which took place on 6-7 March in Ashgabad. It was a very successful event indeed, not least because of the efforts and hospitality of the host country Turkmenistan. The host government of Turkmenistan, together with the OSCE Center in Ashgabad and the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, had invested a lot of joint effort to make it a valuable event.

The Finnish OSCE Chairmanship is focussing on security and the environmental and economic aspects of maritime and inland waterways co-operation. The theme elaborates on water transport and co-operation related to the regional aspects of security, safety and the environment. One extremely important aspect of the theme is covered in this Workshop, namely oil spills response and remediation. This is a theme, which the previous Spanish Chairmanship of the OSCE and present Finnish Chairmanship both see as a priority issue.

In today's interconnected world, environmental challenges as well as security and safety related issues in maritime transport are interlinked and they need to be addressed together. This is evident when looking at the growing maritime traffic figures. The risks of accidents and threats of severe oil spills are also growing. This is reality here in the Caspian Sea as well as in the Baltic Sea and other sea areas and rivers. In the Baltic Sea the volume of energy transport in particular and also the amount of goods and the number of people transported are increasing considerably and there is an urgent need to address this challenge in a sustainable way.

It is in the best interest of the whole OSCE area and all stakeholders to protect the fragile marine environment but how can this be done in a sustainable way without hindering the economic development? I believe this is one of the main questions we are going to focus on during these two days.

These types of Workshops provide us added value in various ways. They are important in bringing together experts and practitioners with different backgrounds, who are able to provide information on how things are done and on what we perceive we are able to do. At the same time it provides checks with the reality – what could and should be done better. There is always a need for fresh and feasible ideas and concepts.

In order to achieve our goals we need several factors to come together, such as sound co-operation, which is key both nationally and regionally between neighbouring countries, as well as between various stakeholders. For the Finnish authorities cooperation is one of the key factors for being able to respond to oil spill emergencies in a timely and cost effective manner.

Another important factor is technology and especially how it is used in oil spills and in emergency response situations. The Finnish authorities rely on cooperation also in the technical surveillance. Joint operations bring added value and cost savings. For example all authorities do not need to own their technical equipment but, by shared equipment and responsibilities, more can be achieved. This applies from the detection of oil spills to navigation safety and efficiency.

In the field of oil spills, there are a number of circumstances that can lead to environmental damage. If it happens, it is necessary to ensure that the damage to the environment is effectively limited, although the best solution would be to prevent the damage before it occurs. I am sure we are going to discuss also this aspect in detail in the coming two days. However, I would like to raise one important aspect now. The principle that the polluter should be financially responsible for the remedial measures can restrain the amount of oil spills and their scope.

To build up national response capacity and to actively build up networks for the response, work is needed. Various types of coordinated and coherent responses are essential as there is more to be gained with multilateral cooperation. As an example I would like to mention the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), which prepares an annual summary report on oil spills in the Baltic Sea. This is done based on the information provided by the coastal states around the Baltic Sea.

Furthermore co-operation at the EU level and its various instruments such as the Marine Strategy and the future Maritime Policy provide a useful basis. The European Maritime Safety Agency, EMSA, has started to monitor oil spills using satellite images, which means that the control of marine oil spills will become increasingly efficient. At the global level the importance of international organisations such as the International Maritime Organisation IMO, the United Nations Programmes UNEP and UNDP as well as the UNECE are of utmost importance.

"Co-operation" is also one reason why we are all gathered here today. We are going to focus on various aspects of oil spills response and remediation. Sharing information and creating common awareness of the risks and threats are the starting points towards a common goal: finding common grounds for common solutions.

These issues are political as much as technical and financial and attention is therefore required at all levels. Therefore the OSCE, as a political organization with a comprehensive security mandate, is particularly well suited to address these issues. The OSCE Secretariat will present the findings of this Workshop for the benefit of all participating States of the OSCE.

I look forward to the discussions that will take place at this Workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

Introductory Remarks

Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

Dear Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you, on behalf of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, to this important technical workshop on oil spills response and clean-up. I would like to thank, in particular, the Government of Turkmenistan for agreeing to host this important event. I would also like to thank the Government of Spain for providing financial support.

Oil and gas extraction, along with transportation and industrial production, has been the source of severe air, water, and soil pollution in the Caspian region. Systematic water sampling in different parts of the Caspian Basin shows contamination from phenols, oil products and other sources. Mineral deposit exploration, particularly oil extraction and pipeline construction, have contributed to the pollution of about 30,000 hectares of land. Pollution from oil fields and refineries continues at a high rate due to the use of outdated technology, malfunctioning equipment, and simple human disregard.

The development of the oil and gas industry in the Caspian Sea region has brought disturbing alterations to the natural environment that have triggered demands to the international community for technical and financial assistance. Due to its landlocked nature, the process of self-purification in the Caspian takes approximately 40 years. This means that unless a comprehensive programme of environmental regeneration is launched in the foreseeable future, the consequences of the current crisis will be extremely serious.

The OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension states that “the protection of the environment is a high priority for all our States. In light of the growing impact of environmental factors on the prosperity, stability and security of our States and the health of our populations, we encourage dialogue and the exchange of information, inter alia, on best practices, on a voluntary basis, on environmental issues of importance for participating States, including on environmentally sound technology”.

The technical workshop on oil spills remediation in the Caspian Sea region compliments the “Workshop on transport, security and environment: experience of regional co-operation in the High North to promote safe and secure multimodal corridors while protecting a fragile environment. Identifying best practices”, that took place on October 16-18, 2006 in Tønsberg, Norway, jointly organized by Norway and the OSCE. It is also a follow up to the Second Preparatory Conference to the 16th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum on “Maritime and inland waterways cooperation in the OSCE area: Increasing security and protecting the environment” which took place in Ashgabat last week. The conference was organized under the aegis of the current Finnish Chairmanship of the OSCE.

It is our expectation that the workshop, through bringing together experts and policymakers from the Caspian littoral states as well as western institutions, will bring value added to discussions on national and international experiences on secure oil spills remediation. In that spirit, I wish you all very fruitful discussions.

Thank you and I hope that you enjoy your stay in Turkmenbashi.

Sessions' Reports

First Session: Status of Oil Spill Preparedness and Remediation activities in the Caspian Sea: Needs and priorities.

Moderator: **Mr. Isidro Gonzalez**, Counsellor, Spanish Delegation to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Mr. Jan Olsson**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Astana

Ms. Patricia Charlebois, Head of the Pollution Response Section at the International Maritime organization (IMO), presented the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC convention). The convention, which was established in 1990 following the Exxon Valdez disaster, entered into force in 1995. Due to the increasing threat of pollution incidents involving chemicals, an additional protocol - the Protocol on hazardous and noxious substances (HNS protocol)⁵ was established in 2000 and entered into force on 14 June 2007. Both provide a framework for the development of national and regional capacity to prepare for and respond to incidents with oil pollution and HNS. They also constitute a platform for facilitating international co-operation in these areas. The Convention's parties are obliged to prepare pollution emergency plans, fulfill certain reporting requirements, have a national system for responding to incidents involving oil spills and HNS and have a preparedness and response capacity. At the international level, the parties are required to inform their neighbouring states on oil spills which could affect them, provide assistance if it is requested by another party, facilitate the receipt of such assistance and involve oil, chemical and shipping industries in preparedness and response activities. According to Ms Charlebois the majority, but not all, of the Caspian states have ratified the Convention.

The function of the IMO in this context is to provide information services, education and training, technical services and assistance - for example by facilitating the provision of assistance in preparedness and response. The IMO supports a regional approach to pollution preparedness and response – for example by elaborating regional protocols and agreements and establishing regional centres. Ms Charlebois further stressed the importance of co-operation on contingency plans at various levels: the global, national, bilateral and regional level. Whereas the OPRC Convention is the main legal framework at the global level, regional arrangements such as the Tehran Convention⁶ are essential. The Tehran Convention is strongly supported by the IMO, particularly its draft emergency protocol.

Concludingly, Ms Charlebois stressed that co-operation between the government, industry and other stakeholders is important for achieving long-term success – for example in developing response strategies. A basic provision is that the party requesting the assistance must reimburse the assisting party. Mutual assistance and technical co-operation, involving the oil and shipping industries, is essential. One example is the Global Initiative, which is a joint initiative between the IMO and the industry.

⁵ Its full name is the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances

⁶ Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea

Ms. Gozel Orazdurdyeva, Strategic Action Plan Co-ordinator of the Caspian Environmental Programme in Turkmenistan, provided a background to the Protocol on Regional Preparedness, Response and Co-operation in Combating Oil pollution Incidents to the Tehran Convention.

The Caspian Environmental Programme, which encompasses all five states around the Caspian Sea, is supported and funded by several international organizations such as the UNDP, UNEP, TACIS, the World Bank. It supports a sustainable development and management of the resources of the Caspian Sea in order to provide for good living conditions for the population of the region in the long run. Among the specific objectives are the preservation of biodiversity, the elaboration of a framework convention with additional protocols and the creation of a regional co-ordination mechanism. Ms Orazdurdeyeva provided a brief outline of the Tehran Convention. It has been ratified by all five Caspian states and entered into force in 2006. There are currently four protocols to the Convention regarding (1) regional co-operation on oil spill preparedness and remediation measures, (2) pollution prevention (3) environmental impact assessments and (4) biodiversity protection.

A meeting regarding the harmonization of the protocols has been held in Geneva for the five Caspian states. Although there is a consensus on all major issues, including joint measures, funding arrangements, procedures regarding the protocols and resolution of disputes, some additional comments are needed from Azerbaijan regarding the protocol on oil spill preparedness and remediation. The temporary secretariat is now reviewing the protocols according to the decisions taken at the Geneva meeting. A conference will be arranged in Tehran later this year and there is hope that all four protocols can be signed by then.

Mr. Berik Tolendiyev, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Turkmenistan delivered a presentation regarding response and prevention measures to oil spills and emergency situations caused by oil operations and tanker transportations.

The Caspian Sea region is of great economic significance to Kazakhstan, since a large part of the country's oil production takes place in this region. There are, however, several environmental challenges connected with the increase in oil production and the increased use of the Caspian Sea for transportation purposes. Some fairly serious incidents involving oil spills have already occurred, for example in 2001-2002 and in 2006. Mr Tolendiyev stressed that if a major accident would occur, there could be catastrophic consequences for the ecosystems of the Caspian.

Only from the oil port of Aktau, more than 5 million tonnes of oil are transported each year. Some of the tankers are in a poor technical condition and need constant surveillance. There are also more than 1400 drilled wells at risk of being submerged due to the fluctuations in the sea level. Several measures are being undertaken to counteract these threats, in accordance with the National Plan on Oil Spills Prevention and Remediation, which entered into force through a presidential decree in 2000. Several institutions have been established since then, for example the National Commission on Response to Oil Spills and a State Inspectorate for the oil industry. Attention is also being paid to monitoring and other preventive measures, for example regarding oil wells. Training activities on emergency and rescue operations, including the liquidation of oil spills are regularly conducted by the National Commission on Response to oil spills together with the regional bodies on emergency situations – for

example in Atyrau, Aktau and Mangistau. Five regional airborne units have been established for emergency situations.

There is a special centre for crises management under the Ministry of Emergency Situations, which provides for an efficient exchange of information with similar centres in other countries. Kazakhstan strives to increase its international co-operation and there are already joint plans for response measures with some countries – for example with the Russian Federation. Several measures are being implemented to provide for a rational and secure use of hydrocarbon resource – e.g. improvements in the legislative framework on early warning, licensing, liquidation of submerged oil wells etc. Three more bases for emergency response and liquidation of oil spills will also be established in Atyrau, Bautino and Kurik.

Mr. Tariyel Huseynov, Chief of Department on Procurement and Improvement of Infrastructure, Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan, presented the activities of the rescue services of Azerbaijan.

Oil exploitation on the territory of Azerbaijan started 150 years ago. It was the first republic in the Soviet Union to begin exploiting oil resources off-shore. The discovery of new oil fields has lead to the construction of new infrastructure and an increased use of the Caspian Sea for transportation purposes. There is now a much greater risk for pollution from oil, chemical substances and waste from drilling operations than before.

Attention should be paid to the preservation of ecosystems in the Caspian Sea, which has a unique flora and fauna. Sturgeon stocks were reduced dramatically after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, much because of the illicit production of black caviar. Now, sturgeons are protected by several legal instruments, including international conventions. However, several species, included red-listed ones - are under threat from oil spills. Major environmental disasters, such as the one in Kerch (Russian Federation) in November 2007, could occur also in the Caspian Sea. Any large incident could have serious consequences for all Caspian states.

Mr. Huseynov highlighted the fact that issue of the legal status of the Caspian Sea is still not resolved among the five states sharing it (Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, the Russian Federation and Iran). During the summit of the Heads of State of the five countries in Teheran last October, it was agreed that each country has a sovereign right to use the resources in the Caspian Sea. At the same meeting, all five states committed themselves to intensifying the dialogue and increasing co-operation.

Azerbaijan possesses highly qualified staff and the necessary technical equipment for conducting rescue operations and liquidating oil spills at sea. Since 1982, eighteen oil liquidation operations have been conducted. Mr. Huseynov expressed particular concern for the potential threat from terrorism to oil operations. He also stressed the importance of international co-operation and the necessity to reach international standards in rescue services. Co-ordination efforts are needed, involving all states as well as oil companies.

Ms. Kaisha Atakhanova, Ecological Forum of NGOs of Kazakhstan, presented the role of the civil society in the Caspian Sea region. Ms. Atakhanova stated that governments should work together and involve other stakeholders such as the business community and the civil society in decision-making. Public participation is necessary to inform the public on the

environmental impact of oil operations and maritime operations and their effects on the health of the population. Local residents are concerned about the environmental situation in Caspian Sea, which is the basis for their livelihoods. The depletion of biological resources and the low quality of drinking water together with historical legacies of pollution, also involving radioactive pollution, add to their concerns.

Ms Atakhanova emphasized the role international legal instruments for ensuring the environmental rights of the population in Kazakhstan, such as the Teheran Convention and its four protocols, the Aarhus convention and the UNECE conventions on transboundary water management, environmental impact assessments in a transboundary context and the transboundary effects of industrial accidents. The Aarhus Convention is essential for ensuring the access to environmental information and provides a basis for public hearings on environmental impact assessments. These international treaties touch upon the interests of the civil society. All these conventions contain paragraphs that refer to public participation. The views and concerns of the local population must be taken into account at an early stage. Currently, however, there is a lack of transparency and a limited access to environmental information for oil operations due to the confidentiality of certain documents.

Several projects have been conducted in the Caspian Sea region of Kazakhstan, for example regarding public hearings on the environmental effects of major investment projects, parliamentary hearings on revenues from oil operations as well as awareness raising campaigns on the environmental rights of the local population. The civil society is ready to be involved in further projects, for example regarding the implementation of international law, the development of national laws for providing environmental rights of the population as well as training activities. A concrete proposal is the establishment of an Aarhus information centre in the city of Atyrau. Ms. Atakhanova also proposed that a joint platform for dialogue between the civil society, oil companies and governments on issues related to security and environment, involving the Caspian states, should be established.

Second Session: Response and action from the Public and Private Sector: Technologies and best practices.

Moderator: **Mr. Raul Daussa**, Environmental Programme Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Mr. Viktor Novikov**, UNEP GRID ARENDAL

Key note addresses:

Mr. Maharip B. Juni from PETRONAS presented how oil companies organise safety procedures and emergency coordination for offshore oil operations in Turkmenistan. In particular the Emergency Response Plan, the Accident Reporting & Notification Procedures, and the organizational structure for emergency response were highlighted. The major possible threats to the environment from oil operations include: well blow out and loss of control, pipeline leak, tanker accidents. A 3-Tier response strategy is adopted for mitigation and clean-up of oil spills: from minor discharges and spills (Tier I), where response action is local to the major discharge / accidents, which require involvement of government agencies

and international specialized companies. The presentation also covered an overview of the technical equipment available at the Turkmenbashi Supply Base and training exercises.

Mr. Elmar Zeynalov from SOCAR (Azerbaijan State Oil Company) reported that Azerbaijan has a long history of off-shore oil operations in the Caspian Sea and is one of the world's first oil production centers. In the past, inefficient methods and minimal standards for environmental protection caused significant local deterioration, which together with minimal penalties for environmental damage promoted neglect of ecological considerations. The increasing pressure on and deterioration of the Caspian Sea's natural resources affect not only Azerbaijan, but also the other states of the Caspian Sea. In the context of newly independent countries and of transition to a market economy, national authorities and oil companies pay special attention to the environmental conservation and monitoring, allowing integration of development and environmental considerations. Azerbaijan historically possesses good technical capabilities and skills for remediation of oil spills in the sea and is ready to serve further the emergency response needs of the Caspian region.

Mr. John Ostergaard from Oil Spill Training Center (UK) noted that, with the introduction of new technologies and the attraction of major investments, the oil production in the region had sharply increased. In the same time, the Tehran Convention (on the protection and conservation of the Caspian Sea environment) entered into force in August 2006, while the Protocol on Oil Pollution Incidents (OPI) and the Regional Plan on Cooperation in case of major oil pollution accidents have been drafted. A Regional Centre under the OPI protocol could be established following the examples from Bahrain (Persian Gulf), Helsinki (Baltic Sea), Varna (Black Sea), with key tasks to assist in national contingency planning, meetings and coordination of oil spills activities and experts, dissemination of information and training.

Mr. Tor Christian Sletner from Det Norske Veritas (DNV, Norway) gave a short overview of his company and described the advantages and uses of GIS-based oil spill response tools. Demonstration of application of vulnerability mapping for the selected area (Ingoya Island, Norway) provided to the participants highlights on how the local environmental knowledge and oil drift analysis could help in detailed planning of contingency and clean up measures. Data on pollution characteristics and environmental sensitivity are the basic requirements for the selection of the appropriate response methods.

Mr. Tharald Brekne from the Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies (Former Managing Director) shared experience of off-shore oil production in the Northern Sea (coast of Norway). Harsh environment, extensive coastline (82000 km) and low light and temperatures in winter create significant logistical challenges for the operations. Considering that oil exploration and drilling is implemented near to the shore, with valuable fishery and tourist sites, oil spill contingency must be effective and robust. Depending on the scale and nature of the oil spill, local and national response (NOFO) means are involved. NOFO is an example of cooperation of operating companies on the Norwegian Continental Shelf with objective of oil spill emergency preparedness and response coordination. It was mentioned that training of local fishing vessels helps to improve capability of spill response. Research in oil spill response in low light and visibility is conducted to improve efficiency.

Mr. Jorge Zaragoza from the Centre for Prevention and Combating Maritime and Littoral Pollution (Spain) highlighted that the geographic position of Spain puts it at the centre of intense maritime transportation, including from oil tankers. In November 2002, the single hull oil tanker *Prestige*, loaded with 77 thousand tons of heavy fuel oil, suffered a structural hull failure near the coast of Galicia, Spain. As a result, a significant proportion of the coastline with touristic and fishery sites, was affected and the biggest oil spill response operation was launched, where up to 12,000 people were involved simultaneously. The action plan consisted of 3 stages: (i) General clean-up of the coastline; (ii) Specialized clean-up of beaches, rocky areas and other sensitive areas; and (iii) Rehabilitation and regeneration of the environment. Further operations at a cost of more than 100 m Euro to recover 14,000 tons of oil sunk at 4,000 meters were completed in 2004. As a result, the threat to the coastal and oceanic environment from the *Prestige* wreck was greatly reduced. In the following years after the accident, new legislation, practices and standards were introduced as well as prevention and response capabilities improved. Most of the coastal autonomous communities in Spain have developed their own contingency plans.

Discussion:

Timur Berkeliev (Turkmenistan) considered the existing (Norwegian and broader international) experience to be useful for studies on environmental sensitivity in the Caspian Sea and its shoreline, especially in biodiversity hotspots such as the Ural delta, Hazar-Cheleken and other areas and recommended to integrate this information into GIS, public information and decision making systems. This would generate benefits for the oil companies (more efficient response to the emergencies) as well as for the local people (better knowledge and coordination of responses).

Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan) added that, in Kazakhstan, some initial works on environmental mapping are being already conducted, but it would be interesting to cooperate in the larger regional context. Azerbaijan later in the discussions supported the need of regional studies of environmental sensitivity.

Galina Chernova (Kazakhstan) recalled that the North Caspian Sea was freezing in winter and put a question to the participants regarding their international experience in detection and remediation of oil spills under sea ice. In response, participants referred to Alaska's and Canada's practical experience in the oil exploration and spill response in the harsh environments.

Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan) added that, in Kazakhstan, the Committee on geology and mineral resources was responsible for liquidation of flooded abandoned oil wells (out of 48 identified leaking wells offshore, 32 are now safe). Winter conditions are considered to be favourable for liquidation works related to flooded abandoned oil wells in the Caspian.

Discussion with key note speakers and Q&A from plenary

Moderator: **Mr. Gaurav Thapan-Rania**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Ashgabad.

Rapporteur: **Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Baku

Key note address:

Ms. Kari Stokke, Corporate HSE, Environment and Climate, StatoilHydro ASA, explained the example of OSPRI as cooperation between industry and governments on Oil Spill Preparedness.

IPIECA stands for the 'International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association'. IPIECA was founded in 1974 by the global oil industry. IPIECA and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) cooperate on the so-called Global Initiative, implementing regional Oil Spill Preparedness & Response programmes. One of these regional programmes is OSPRI.

OSPRI was formed in 2003 with a mandate to promote industry and government cooperation on integrated and sustainable oil spill response in the Caspian Sea, Black Sea and Central Eurasia region. This can best be achieved when the oil companies work together with governments and governmental organisations.

OSPRI has been active in the Black Sea, supporting the littoral states in implementing their regional cooperation plan. In a culmination of this process, in September 2007, OSPRI supported a large-scale regional Exercise SULH, hosted by Turkey. The Black Sea cooperation offers a good model for the Caspian States to consider.

OSPRI wishes to focus more on the Caspian Sea and is very enthusiastic to help with the implementation of the OPI protocol once it is signed. OSPRI also look forward to supporting and facilitating workshops in the region on oil spill preparedness and response.

Discussion:

Ms Gozel Orazdurdyeva (SAPIC/CAP, Turkmenistan) raised the question of computer software allowing forecasting of oil spill movements at sea.

Mr John Ostergaard (Director, Oil Spill Training Company, UK) confirmed that 8-10 different modelling software programmes exist that are fully available in the market.

Ms Galina Chernova (NGO 'Globus', Kazakhstan) asked how pipelines react to freezing temperatures.

Mr John Ostergaard explained that HELCOM has undertaken a number of studies on oil movements in ice-laid waters. Regarding pipelines, USA and Canada has done much research on protecting pipelines in cold climates.

Mr Tharald Brekne (former director of the Norwegian Clean Seas Association - NOFO) referred to research going on in Svalbard regarding oil's interaction with ice in water.

Ms Patricia Charlebois (International Maritime Organisation – IMO) pointed out that the Arctic Council has produced guidelines for oil spills response in snow and ice conditions. These guidelines are available on the Arctic Council's website and may be downloaded.

Ms Galina Chernova also asked who was responsible for paying for the cleaning up after the 'Prestige' accident outside Spain in November 2002.

Mr Jorge Zaragoza (Spain) stated that Spain is now filing a law suit in New York against the US certifying body that approved the 'Prestige' prior to the accident.

Mr Timur Berkeliev (ENVSEC focal point in Turkmenistan), remarked that historically, in Turkmenistan, the majority of oil spills happen during production, whereas globally, most oil spills occur during transportation. In the Caspian Sea region, Azerbaijan has some experience as a traditional oil producing country, whereas the other littoral states are less well prepared to respond to oil spills at sea.

Mr John Ostergaard pointed out that new, larger oil tankers will be built in compliance with international standards. With the expected increase in the shipping traffic in the Caspian Sea, the risk of accidents is considerably enhanced. However, a large fleet of sub-standard tankers still sail despite the fact that their governments have signed international conventions. Implementation of the key international conventions is very important.

Mr Raul Daussa (OCEEA, OSCE Secretariat) asked the representatives from the littoral states to share their views, i.e. with regard to the establishment of a regional centre to coordinate and promote implementation of conventions and protocols pertaining to the Caspian Sea.

Mr Jorge Zaragoza recommended the Caspian Sea states to join the Paris MoU on the control of the condition of the vessels.

Mr Marc Baltes (OCEEA, OSCE Secretariat) asked where the Black Sea Commission process started and whether it could possibly serve as a model for the Caspian Sea.

Mr John Ostergaard explained that it evolved from the UNDP/UNEP-sponsored Black Sea Environmental Programme. Now, however, the Black Sea Commission has taken over the full responsibility for the convention, funded by the member states.

The Moderator, **Mr Gaurav Thapan-Raina** (The OSCE Centre in Ashgabad), asked what the OSCE could do in the context of the Caspian Sea.

Mr Serik Akhmetov suggested that the littoral states, thanks to the present seminar, were already receiving much valuable information. He also invited OSCE to provide support in the development of a new Kazakhstani environmental strategy for the Caspian Sea.

Ms Patricia Charlebois referred to the OPI protocol to be signed later in 2008. Once the protocol is signed, lots of activities will need to be initiated in order to implement the protocol. IMO, based in London, will not be in a position to provide close support. The OSCE, thanks to its interface with governments and its regional field presences, is in an excellent position to support such implementation. Planning should start now. She has her own personal ideas exactly how OSCE could contribute. As for a centre, it may be too early to conclude as the future Secretariat's location has not yet been identified.

Ms Kaisha Atahanova (Ecological forum for NGOs, Kazakhstan) recommended that the OSCE promote awareness-raising amongst civil society.

Mr Gunduz Rahimov (Cabinet of Ministers, Azerbaijan) launched the idea of establishing a centre for protecting the animals in the Caspian Sea. He also pointed out that, in the time of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan was responsible for oil spills response.

Ms Galina Chernova emphasised that until the legal status of the Caspian Sea is established all conventions and protocols are null and void.

Third Session: Role of International Organizations and Regional Initiatives

Moderator: Mr. Marc Baltes, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: Ms. Lyale Nazarova, Environmental & Economic Programme Assistant, OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

In the beginning of the session, the moderator underlined the role of international organizations in the region and highlighted their programmes and initiatives under implementation in the Caspian region.

The Strategic Action Plan Implementation Co-ordinator (SAPIC) in Turkmenistan of the Caspian Environment Programme (CEP), **Ms. Gozel Orazdurdyeva**, informed that the CEP started in 1998 in the 5 Caspian states. The main goal of the programme is sustainable development and environmental management of the Caspian Sea resources in order to create beneficial optimal long term conditions for the population of the region.

The tasks of the project include conservation of biodiversity; combating invasive species and toxic substances; development of the framework convention and additional protocols and provision of the regional co-ordination mechanism of the CEP, aimed at implementation of the Action Plan at regional level. In order to strengthen the legal base for protection of the Caspian Sea environment, the Convention on Protection of the Caspian Sea Environment was developed, signed and ratified by the 5 countries. Four Protocols were developed in order to back up the Convention:

- Protocol concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in combating Oil Pollution Incidents
- Biodiversity Conservation Protocol
- Protocol for the Protection of the Caspian Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities
- Protocol on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context
- As far as synergies with other international actors in the region was concerned, Ms Orazdurdyeva pointed out that, while the CEP is financed by UNDP, UNEP, WB, TACIS and others, co-operation and the broad involvement of other donors (GEF, IMO etc) in certain elements of the programme enabled its comprehensive implementation. A number of small scale projects, aimed at development of coastal community, increase of public awareness on Aarhus Convention and others, incorporated environmental protection activity in the region.

Mr. Rovshen Nurmuhamedov, Programme Officer (Environment & Energy), UNDP Turkmenistan, presented the project on Conservation and sustainable use of globally significant biological diversity in the Hazar Nature Reserve on the Caspian Sea Coast as a part of UNEP/UNDP activity in the Caspian Sea region. The project, main donors of which are GEF, UNDP and Government of Turkmenistan, has the overall objective to strengthen Turkmenistan national system of protected areas (PA) by demonstrating effective participatory PA management in the Hazar Reserve and systematically identifying and disseminating lessons learnt. The presenter described in details all components of the project and stressed the importance of various stakeholders involved in the implementation, whether it is local community and authorities, oil&gas sector, public organizations or governmental bodies; and their concerted actions with big international donors. Special emphasis was made on the development of the oil&gas sector in the region and the necessity of its well-balanced environmental policy aimed at good rapprochement with all actors concerned. Activities, stipulated by the project, contain introduction of participatory planning process for the Hazar Reserve management; improvement of technical, social and HR capacity and management; introduction of coastal planning and coastal zone management; demonstration of sustainable use of bio-resources; development of training programme on PA management; dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt nationwide.

Mr. Viktor Novikov of UNEP/GRID Arendal touched upon the status of the ENVSEC assessment report on the Eastern Caspian and of relevant projects being implemented in the East Caspian region and called for more co-operation with international organizations and exchange of best practices from the region and worldwide.

Mr. Timur Berkeliev, an ENVSEC National Focal Point (Turkmenistan), reported on the environment and security situation in the East Caspian and Turkmen part in particular. The statement that environmental challenges can turn into a real threat when combined with other factors, proves to be true for the Caspian Sea, as the status of the sea is not determined and borders are not drawn; production sharing agreements are considered as unfair by all parties concerned. Specific challenges in this regard include: increase of water level leading to the flood of industrial objects; change of habitat for many endemic species; and increase of uncertainty for bio resources. Most key environmental problems in the Caspian as well as its resources have a transboundary character. Social-economic development in the region can be

characterized by sharp difference between urban and rural settlements, although both lack sufficient pace for growth.

The Hazar Reserve is surrounded by oil & gas industrial objects, along with “hotspots” in Cheleken and the Soimonov Bay. There is a shortage of employment opportunities., which increases the potential danger for the flora and the fauna of the reserve. Degradation of bio resources will eventually lead to environmental problems. The role of the local community in the environmental decision making process is underestimated and/or not taken into due account. Therefore, drastic measures are needed on the part of government, local authorities and community, international organizations, oil business companies and the academic community aimed at decrease and elimination of the said problems and mitigation of their consequences.

Plenary Discussion

Moderator: **Mr. Gabriel Leonte**, Economic and Environmental Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteurs: **Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Baku and **Mr. Raul Daussa**, Environmental Programme Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

The moderator opened the session by reminding the audience of some of the key elements that had been discussed during the previous sessions and welcomed the participants to put forward suggestions on two different topics:

- Co-ordination of international efforts: How can regional co-operation be a supplement to the work of international organizations concerning oil spills response and remediation? Is there a role for the OSCE?
- Exchange of best practices: How can the exchange of best practices and technology transfer be further facilitated. Is there a role for the OSCE?

Mr. John Ostergaard, stated that the creation of a Regional Centre for the Caspian Sea was still under discussion and it was necessary to wait for the decision of the parties, but in order to be prepared, the OSCE could support the development of **a regional contingency plan for the Caspian Sea, by means of organizing one or two regional workshops. An assessment and mapping of the environmental sensitivity and risks** from oil spills should be part of the regional contingency plan.

Mr. Isidro Gonzalez stressed the importance of co-operation between different international organizations and the fact that **Climate Change** was being recognized as a potential contributor to conflict.

Mr. Tharald Brekne suggested that the OSCE could sponsor **expert participation to international conferences**, where oil spills control, prevention and remediation measures were discussed. The next conference is the 20th Triennial International Oil Spill Conference on Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration, which will be held in the USA on May 4-8, 2008.

Mr. Viktor Novikov explained the Environment and Security Initiative rationale and partners (UNDP, UNEP, OSCE, UNECE, REC and NATO), the scope and project implementation focus. He stressed that the role of ENVSEC supported **Environmental information centres could be exported to the Caspian Sea region**, based on the experience from the OSCE Office in Astana in organizing Public Hearings.

Mr. Raul Daussa explained the preparation of the **ENVSEC Eastern Caspian Assessment**, which had been submitted to the Kazakh and Turkmen authorities for comments and would be published in the **second half of 2008**. The ENVSEC assessment focuses on spots where environmental degradation can exacerbate existing tensions and shows in clear maps and diagrams the areas of focus where concrete projects can be implemented.

Mr. Tor Christian Sletner supported Mr. Ostergaard proposal and Mr. Gonzalez remarks and stressed that it was also important to **take the messages back to our own organizations** to discuss it and help spread the message and agreed that using the OSCE regional offices to organize public hearings and conduct local workshops were important ideas, as we should all keep in mind the legacy we would leave to future generations.

Ms. Lidiya Guluzade thanked the OSCE for its continued support for training in the Aarhus centres but expressed concerns over the reduced activities of the Baku Aarhus Centre over the last few years. She suggested that the OSCE could help **set up and independent centre to support the oil companies**.

Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn launched the idea of hosting a **second event, later in 2008 in Baku, in order to continue the discussions and follow up on the recommendations of this workshop**. He stressed the need to consider the Caspian Sea region in addition to the South Caucasus and Central Asian regions, as in global geo-strategic terms the Caspian region was extremely dynamic due to the oil and gas sector. He proposed the **establishment of an OSCE Program for Security and Co-operation in the Caspian Sea Region**, a flexible information framework without a fixed budget that could help bring political focus into this region. For that reason there is a need to continue contacts with other regional initiatives like OSPRI, CEP, in order to build synergies and avoid duplication.

Mr. Jan Olsson explained that the OSCE Center in Astana intended to increase its focus on the Caspian given the impending needs and importance of the issues discussed, the ideas launched during the workshop should be further studied, especially the ENVSEC assessment in the Eastern Caspian Sea.

Also the proposal of an **Aarhus centre should be explored**, based on the results of the evaluation carried out by the OSCE Secretariat. The OSCE could also facilitate a dialogue on environmental conventions and protocols, and finally the OSCE could support the follow up of the programme suggested by Mr. Bjorvatn in Kazakhstan

Mr. Serik Akhmetov explained the close cooperation of the Ministry of Environment of Kazakhstan with the OSCE centre, exemplified in the organization of several workshops (Environmental indicators, Project Methodology, etc) and the increased attention of Kazakhstan to environmental issues. He suggested that **the OSCE could support Kazakhstan in the preparation of the Environmental Security programme in the**

Caspian Sea Region, and explained that Kazakhstan had requested to host the seat of the Caspian Environmental Programme.

Ms. Kari Stokke supported Mr. Ostergaard's proposal and explained that it would fit OSPRI's objectives, together with the **OSPRI support to mapping methodologies** that could be included in future workshops.

Mr. Tariyel Husyenov explained that the Caspian Sea was a limited "water reservoir" and co-operation among riparian countries was fundamental. He explained that Azerbaijan had the Caspian Basin Accident Rescue Service (the only service in the Soviet times). Mr. Husyenov sought support **of International Organizations to continue the contacts with different Caspian Sea countries** in order to keep the readiness and preparedness for emergency situations.

Ms. Patricia Charlebois explained that any next workshop should take place after the CoP of the Teheran convention which was expected this fall (September – October 2008). She asked that any new initiative should take into consideration all the projects that were under way, and announced the International Maritime Organization's Fourth R&D Forum on Hazardous, Noxious Substances (HNS) in the Marine Environment, which would be held alongside the Interspill 2009 conference and exhibition and would take place in Marseille. She suggested **that the OSCE could sponsor experts to the conference**.

Ms. Galina Chernova expressed the view that the OSCE should focus on social responsibility of international oil companies and noted the need to resolve the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

Mr. Sarvan Rasulov explained that the Caspian Sea was also polluted by sewage waters and therefore **the OSCE could develop a special programme to support fundamental science** to study the causes and consequences of pollution from a scientific point of view.

Mr. Serik Akhmetov expressed the view that the legal status of the Caspian Sea was an issue for the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and should not be the focus of the technical workshop.

Closing Session – Possible follow-up

Summary of discussions by **Mr. Marc Baltes**, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Marc Baltes summarized the discussions and recommendations expressed by the participants during the workshop.

The Caspian Sea region is of the highest ecological value and includes natural reserves with rich wildlife, which need to be protected. While the increase in oil and gas production and transportation and the coastal tourist development represent an opportunity for the littoral states to develop their economies, they pose at the same time a threat to the environment.

Therefore it is of utmost importance that the costal development is undertaken in a sustainable manner.

With the expected increase in shipping traffic in the Caspian Sea, the risk of accidents is considerably enhanced (estimates place the percentage of oil spills incidents related to transportation up to 60% of the total oils spills incidents). Despite the fact that Caspian Sea basin governments have signed international conventions, a large fleet of sub-standard tankers still sails, thus making the enforcement of key international conventions and standards a very important objective.

During the discussions, participants learned that several legal instruments have been developed to protect the seas from oil spills: The IMO has adopted the International Convention on Oil Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC) in 1990, including a Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, which has been adopted by all Caspian Sea states, except Turkmenistan. Under the Teheran convention, the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents has been prepared and it is ready for adoption, probably at the next CoP later in 2008. In spite of the fact that the legal status of the Caspian Sea and thus its border delimitation have not yet been established, the Caspian Sea basin countries continue with fruitful co-operation.

Participants to the workshop acknowledged that oil spills were very expensive to remediate, and it was better to invest in prevention and preparedness. Different best practices were presented such as a GIS system to establish the priority actions and inform the public in case of an oil spill, or the Norwegian experience involving a fishing boats' fleet on permanent alert for emergency situations. The delegation from Azerbaijan also presented its own expertise on oil spills response, which could be shared and used among the riparian states.

A thorough presentation on the lessons learned from the “Prestige” oil spill concluded that prevention, preparation, and setting up regional centres were a major breakthrough to minimize the damage of oil spills. As a result of the “Prestige” accident, Spain lobbied the EU to ban single hull tanks and prepared manuals and guidelines to handle on shore oil pollution.

Several **recommendations** were put forward during the workshop. Among them, to enhance the capacity of the countries of the region to implement the regional agreements they had signed (Teheran convention and OPRC). This could be done through training and capacity building workshops. The OSCE could facilitate co-operation and participation of government, international organizations, industry, and NGOs, to oil spills related events through the OSCE field presences and especially support the Caspian Environmental Programme activities.

The establishment of a Regional Centre for the Caspian Sea was still under discussion, and a decision of the parties to the Teheran convention was needed; but in order to be prepared, the OSCE could support the development of a Regional contingency plan for the Caspian Sea. The need for an assessment and mapping of the environmental sensitivity and risks from oil spills should be part of the regional contingency plan.

The OSCE could also support the public participation and involvement of the local communities and civil society representatives to empower them for providing an active participation in the event of an oil spill. Other concrete proposals were to organize a second event in Baku (possibly starting an OSCE programme for environmental security co-operation on oil Spills response and remediation in the Caspian), the establishment of a Centre for Protecting the Animals in the Caspian Sea and the recommendation to join the Paris MoU on the control of the condition of the vessels.

Along the potential activities to be promoted by the OSCE, there are several actors / partners to be involved: the IMO, OSPRI (Private sector), Civil Society – NGOs, IFIs and other International Organizations.

ANNEX I Final Agenda



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSCE Center in Ashgabad
in co-operation with the
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

**Technical Workshop on Oil Spills Response and Remediation:
Status of regional co-operation in the Caspian Sea, available technologies and exchange
of best practices from the OSCE region**

Turkmenbashi, 10-11 March 2008

AGENDA

Monday, 10 March 2008

9.15 – 9.30 Registration

9.30 – 10.00 Opening Session

- Welcoming remarks by **Mr. Arazmamet Arshykov, Chief specialist of Balkan Region Municipality**
- Welcoming remarks **Mr. Marc Baltes**, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities on behalf of the **Finnish OSCE Chairmanship**
- Introductory remarks by **Ambassador Ibrahim Djikic**, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabad

10.00 – 11.30 First Session: Status of Oil Spill Preparedness and Remediation activities in the Caspian Sea: Needs and priorities.

Efficient Oil Spills response and remediation activities are vital to the protection of the environment. This session will provide an overview of the actual situation at national and regional level.

Moderator: **Mr. Isidro Gonzalez**, Counsellor, Spanish Delegation to the OSCE

Rapporteur: **Mr. Jan Olsson**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Centre in Astana

Key note introductions (10 minutes):

- **The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation.**
Ms. Patricia Charlebois, Head of Pollution Response Section, International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- **Status of the Protocol Concerning Regional Preparedness, Response and Cooperation in Combating Oil Pollution Incidents.**

Ms. Gozel Orazdurdyeva, Strategic Action Plan Implementation Coordinator (SAPIC) in Turkmenistan, Caspian Environment Programme

- **Response and Prevention Measures to Oil Spills and Emergency Situations Caused by Oil Operations and Tanker Transportations**

Mr. Berik Tolendiyev, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Turkmenistan.

- **Perspective from Azerbaijan.**

Mr. Tariyel Husyenov, Chief of Department on Procurement and Improvement of Infrastructure. Ministry of Emergencies.

- **Role of the Civil Society**

Ms. Kaisha Atahanova, Ecological Forum of NGOs of Kazakhstan

11.30 – 12.00 Coffee/Tea break

12.00 – 13.30 **Second Session: Response and action from the Public and Private Sector: Technologies and best practices.**

Different experiences from the Caspian Sea region and the whole OSCE area will be presented with the aim of exchanging best practices and looking for synergies.

Moderator: **Mr. Raul Daussa**, Environmental Programme Officer, Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Mr. Viktor Novikov**, UNEP GRID ARENDAL

Key note introductions (10 minutes):

- **PETRONAS OSR Capability in Turkmenistan (Turkmenistan)**

Mr. Maharip B. Juni, HSE Manager PETRONAS Carigali (Turkmenistan)

- **Experience from SOCAR (Azerbaijan)**

Mr. Elmar Zeynalov, Head of Labour Safety Unit, Safety Department, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic.

- **Capacity Building for Oil Spill Response. Caspian Sea Region.**

Mr. John Ostergaard, Director, Oil Spill Training Company, (United Kingdom).

- **GIS based oil spill response operation tools**

Mr. Tor Christian Sletner, Associate Director, Det Norske Veritas AS (Norway).

13.30 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 16:00 **Second Session Continuation**

Key note introductions (10 minutes):

- **Experience from the North Sea**

Mr. Tharald Brekne, Consultant, Former Managing Director of the Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies.

- **Response and remediation of the "Prestige" Oil Spill. Lessons learned.**

Mr. Jorge Zaragoza, Head, Institutional Affairs and Co-operation, Centre for Prevention and Combating Maritime and Littoral Pollution (Spain).

16:00 – 16:30 Coffee / Tea Break

16:30 – 17:30 **Discussion with key note speakers and Q&A from plenary:**

Following the Keynote address, speakers from the second session will discuss with the plenary possible models for regional co-operation and public/ private sector participation

Moderator: **Mr. Gaurav Thapan-Rania**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Ashgabat.

Rapporteur: **Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Baku

Key note address:

- **Industry Cooperation with Governments in Oil Spill Preparedness: The example of OSPRI.**

Ms. Kari Stokke, Corporate HSE, Environment and Climate, StatoilHydro ASA.

19:00 **Reception hosted by the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat (Hotel “Serdar”)**

Tuesday, 11 March 2008

09.00 – 10.30 **Third Session: Role of International Organizations and Regional Initiatives**

International Organizations play an important role in co-ordinating and promoting efforts on Oil Spills Preparedness and Remediation. This session will aim at identifying the role of international organizations in catalyzing existing activities aimed at reducing oil spills and increasing response and remediation capacities of the Caspian Sea states.

Moderator: **Mr. Marc Baltes**, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Ms. Lyale Nazarova**, Environmental & Economic Assistant, OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

Key note introductions followed by discussion:

- **The Caspian Convention: Synergies with other International Organizations**
Ms. Gozel Orazdurdyeva, Coordinator of Strategic Action Plan Implementation of Caspian Environmental Program (SAP CEP)
- **The UNEP / UNDP involvement in the Caspian Sea**

Mr. Rovshen Nurmuhamedov, National Program Coordinator (energy and environment), UNDP Turkmenistan

Mr. Viktor Novikov, UNEP GRID ARENDAL

- **The ENVSEC Initiative: A framework for Environmental Co-operation**

Mr. Timur Berkeliev, ENVSEC Focal Point in Turkmenistan.

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee/Tea break

11.00 – 12.00 **Plenary Discussions.**

The aim of this session is to discuss practical outcomes and recommendations based on the two topics selected.

Moderator: **Mr. Gabriel Leonte**, Economic and Environmental Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Rapporteur: **Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn**, Economic and Environmental Officer, OSCE Office in Baku and **Mr. Raul Daussa**, Environmental Programme Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities.

Topic 1 – Co-ordination of international efforts: *How can regional co-operation be a supplement to the work of international organizations concerning Oil Spills response and remediation? Is there a role for the OSCE?*

Topic 2 – Exchange of best practices: *How can the exchange of best practices and technology transfer be further facilitated. Is there a role for the OSCE?*

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 **Closing Session – Possible follow-up**

Summary of discussions by **Mr. Marc Baltes**, Senior Adviser, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

ANNEX II List of Participants



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
OSCE Center in Ashgabad
in co-operation with the
Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities**

**Technical Workshop on Oil Spills Response and Remediation
Turkmenistan, Turkmenbashi, 10-11 March 2008
Hotel Turkmenbashi**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1.	Mr. Gunduz Rahimov	Senior Adviser, Department of Petroleum & Chemistry, Cabinet of Ministers	Azerbaijan
2.	Mr. Piri Gulu-zadeh	Deputy Head, Caspian Basin Accident Rescue Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations	Azerbaijan
3.	Mr. Sarvan Rasulov	Deputy Head, Department on the Measures during the Emergency situations, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	Azerbaijan
4.	Mr. Tariyel Husyenov	Chief of Department on Procurement and Improvement of Infrastructure. Ministry of Emergency Situations	Azerbaijan
5.	Mr. Elmar Zeynalov	Head of Labour Safety Unit, Safety Department, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR)	Azerbaijan
6.	Ms. Lidiya Guluzade	NGO Teta Khazr	Azerbaijan
7.	Mr. Serik Akhmetov	Expert, Ministry of Environmental Protection	Kazakhstan
8.	Mr. Aitzhan Shagirov	Head, Department for Control Over Oil and Gas Industry, Geology and Sea Oil Operations, Emergency and Industrial Safety State Control Committee, Ministry of Emergency	Kazakhstan
9.	Mr. Kasym Tlepov	Chief Expert, Committee on Transport and Communications, Ministry of Transport and Communications	Kazakhstan
10.	Ms. Kaisha Atahanova	Ecological Forum of NGOs	Kazakhstan
11.	Ms. Galina Chernova	NGO "Globus"	Kazakhstan

12.	Mr. Berik Tolendiyev	First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Turkmenistan	Kazakhstan
13.	Ms. Dinara Kulmanova	HSE Department, KazMunaiTeniz	Kazakhstan
14.	Mr. Ramazan Udumov	Deputy Head, Department of Oil Extraction, Ministry of Oil & Gas Industry and Mineral Resources	Turkmenistan
14.	Mr. Maksat Bekiyev	Third Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Turkmenistan
15.	Ms. Firiuza Mollayeva	Head of Environment Laboratory, Institute of Oil&Gas, State Concern "Turkmengas"	Turkmenistan
16.	Mr. Arazmamet Arshikov	Head of Dpt, Khyakimlik of Balkan velayat	Turkmenistan
17.	Ms. Maya Hajiyeve	State Commission on the Caspian Sea	Turkmenistan
18.	Mr. Murad Berdyev	Assistant to the Head of the State Commission on Caspian Sea	Turkmenistan
19.	Ms. Nartach Kurbanova	Deputy Head, CaspEcoControl, Ministry of Nature Protection	Turkmenistan
20.	Ms. Tatiana Tsura	Specialist, CaspEcoControl, Ministry of Nature Protection	Turkmenistan
21.	Mr. Hudayberdy Dilekov	Head of Dpt, Turkmenoil, Ministry of oil&gas	Turkmenistan
22.	Ms. Gulnar Kochumova	State Commission on the Caspian Sea	Turkmenistan
23.	Mr. Yusup Kasymov	Environment Specialist, Dragon Oil	Turkmenistan
24.	Mr. Nor Adly	Baze Manager, KAJ	Turkmenistan
25.	Mr. Maharip B Juni	HSE Manager PETRONAS Carigali (Turkmenistan)	Turkmenistan
26.	Mr. Allabay Allabayev	Environmental Protection Inspector, Burren Energy	Turkmenistan
27.	Mr. Constantin Draghici	HSSE Manager, GAC Marine S.A. Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan
28.	Mr. Isidro Gonzalez Afonso	Counselor, Spanish Delegation to the OSCE	Spain
29.	Mr. Fernando Blanco Espinosa	Captain, Department of Sea Security and Combat against Contamination	Spain
30.	Ms. Gozel Orazdurdyeva	Strategic Action Plan Implementation Coordinator (SAPIC) in Turkmenistan	Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP)

31.	Ms. Patricia Charlebois	Head, Pollution Response Section, Marine Environment Division	IMO
32.	Mr. Rovshen Nurmuhamedov	National Program Coordinator (Energy & Environment)	UNDP Turkmenistan
33.	Mr. Victor Novikov	Geographer, GRID/Arendal	UNEP/GRID- Arendal
34.	Mr. Timur Berkeliev	ENVSEC Focal Point	ENVSEC/ Turkmenistan
35.	Mr. Tharald Brekne	Consultant, Former Managing Director of the Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies, (NOFO)	Norway
36.	Mr. Thorbjørn Lindseth	Advisor CISR, Corporate Integrity and Social Responsibility, StatoilHydro	Norway
37.	Ms. Kari Stokke	Corporate HSE, Environment and Climate, StatoilHydro	Norway
38.	Mr. Tor Christian Sletner	Associate Director, Det Norske Veritas AS	Det Norske Veritas
39.	Mr. John Østergaard	Director, The Oil Spill Training Company Ltd.	UK
40.	Mr. Jorge Zaragoza	Head, Institutional Affairs and Co- operation, Centre for prevention and combating maritime and littoral pollution (CEPRECO)	Spain
41.	Amb. Ibrahim Djikic	Head of Centre	OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
42.	Mr. Gaurav Thapan-Raina	Economic & Environmental Officer	OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
43.	Ms. Lyale Nazarova	Economic & Environmental Programme Assistant	OSCE Centre in Ashgabad
44.	Mr. Jan Olsson	Economic & Environmental Officer	OSCE Centre in Astana
45.	Mr. Torbjörn Bjorvatn	Economic & Environmental Officer	OSCE Office in Baku
46.	Mr. Marc Baltes	Senior Adviser	OSCE/OCEEA
47.	Mr. Gabriel Leonte	Economic & Environmental Officer	OSCE/OCEEA
48.	Mr. Raul Daussa	Environmental Programme Officer	OSCE/OCEEA