

Press release no. 1

Date: 4 February 2016

Containervessel grounding on Elbe River

The Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME) took over mission control.

Since 13:45 hrs the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME) has taken over mission control in case of CSCL INDIAN OCEAN [L: 399.67m, B: 58,6m, flag: Hong Kong, China] on request of Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration Hamburg. CCME is in contact with the shipping company of the container vessel and developing a salvage concept in order to relieve the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN of her situation. The pollution control aircraft Do228 of CCME overflew the area and did not detect any pollution emission. A master mariner of CCME is already on the spot. He is assessing the situation on-site and taking over the operational leadership on the spot. A sounding vessel is on the way to the grounded vessel to record the definite position of the vessel on the river bed. Additionally, a dredger is ordered to wash off the area around the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN.

The two tugboats BOXER and DOLPHIN, the multi-purpose vessel NEUWERK and the water police boat BÜRGERMEISTER WEICHMANN are in the area of operation.

Yesterday evening (3.2.2016) at about 22:00 hrs the container vessel ran aground for reasons yet unknown. At nighttime and today at noon, the Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration Hamburg tried to tow the container vessel back into the waterway. The attempts were unsuccessful.

According to the available information, no person was injured. The shipping traffic on the Elbe is only slightly affected by the casualty so far. The air space over the grounded vessel is blocked in a radius of 2 kilometers, so that the pollution control aircraft of CCME is able to carry out further measurement flights.

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Press release no. 2

Date: 4 February 2016

Pumping process has started No towing-attempt at night

Since the early evening a bunkering vessel has started to pump down part of the fuel of the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN. During the pumping process the vessel cannot be towed. Thus, the Central Commando for Maritime Emergencies is not planning a towing-attempt with the coming high tide at about 0:30 hrs.

During the afternoon, a sounding vessel has recorded the position of the grounded vessel. The collected data is evaluated now.

Representatives of the shipping company and CCME carry on developing a salvage concept. The results of the lightening and of today's sounding are crucial for the next steps.

During nighttime the tugboats DOLPHIN and BOXER as well as the multi-purpose vessel NEUWERK stay with the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN.

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Press release no. 3

Date: 5 February 2016

Container vessel being further lightened Spring tide to be used

According to the available information at CCME, there are still 800 tons of heavy oil and 570 tons of gas oil onboard the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN. The aim of CCME is to lighten the vessel up to the most necessary fuel.

On Tuesday morning there will be a chance for a towing-attempt. According to present forecasts and calculations a window of opportunity opens, during which a towing operation could be feasible. CCME and the shipping company want to use this window of opportunity. Until then, they are trying to prepare the grounded vessel for the towing-attempt.

For this, dredgers are inserted that free the area around the vessel.

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Press release no.4

Date: 6 February 2016

Dredging process commenced – no more heavy oil onboard Preparations for the towing-attempt going on

This afternoon, the dredging-process around the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN has commenced. In order to support the towing-attempt on Tuesday morning, dredgers remove the ground around the grounded vessel. A sounding vessel has once again recorded the position of the grounded vessel. The pollution control aircraft of CCME Do 228 has overflown the area and did not detect any pollution emission.

Since this morning, there is no more heavy oil onboard the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN. The about 2000 tons of heavy oil were pumped down by the bunkering vessel DRESDEN 2. The preparations for pumping down other fuels are going on. At the same time, the water ballast is removed from the tanks.

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Press release no.5

Date: 8 February 2016

Preparations for the towing-attempt going on

All not necessary fuel pumped down – dredging works terminated

The operational forces have lightened the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN around about 6506 tons. Additionally, dredgers have removed about 45000m³ of ground, especially along the whole starboard side, at the stern and the bow. The pollution control vessel of CCME Do228 has overflown the area regularly since last Thursday and did not detect any water pollution. 12 vessels and one aircraft participated in the preparations for the towing-attempt. In the Central Casualty Command, there are 30 persons preparing the first towing-attempt of CCME.

Shortly, the two first tugboats tie up to the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN. The tying of all tugboats will be terminated around midnight. There will be 12 tugboats with a total bollard pull of 1085 tons on scene. The towing-attempt is expected to begin at about 2:00 hrs and could take several hours. The on-scene-coordinator of CCME and the salvage-experts of the shipping company are on the bridge of the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN during the towing-attempt. From 2:00 to 6:00 hrs, the Elbe River-section between buoy 111 (north tip of Lühesand) and buoy 125 (near Schulau) is closed to shipping traffic. The air space is blocked further on.

According to the current calculations, the difference to the mean high water is + 122cm. CCME receives updated weather data every hour. A medical emergency team of the fire brigade Cuxhaven is onboard the NEUWERK in case of an emergency. A Helicopter of the federal police force is on standby.

Fuels and water ballast pumped down (6506 tons)

- heavy oil	2000 tons	(2000 -> 0)
- gasoil	400 tons	(700 -> 300)
- low-sulphur fuel	50 tons	(450 -> 400)
- lubricating oil	56 tons	(88 -> 32)
- water ballast	4000 tons	(4000 ->0)

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Press release no.6

Date: 9 February 2016

Towage operation successful

2:20am CSCL INDIAN OCEAN is back in the fairway of Elbe river

Shortly after 2am the On Scene Coordinator of the Central Command for maritime Emergencies (CCME) has started the salvage operation. Via VHV he ordered: "attention OCS speaking, start towing, for further instructions please listen to the tow master". At 2:06am OSC is calling: "the stern of the vessel has been towed off the bank".

Tugs reposition now to proceed to Hamburg Port. Simultaneously on board of CSCL INDIAN OCEAN test procedures to check vessels systems are performed. According to first results all systems on board are running fine. Ruder is in full operation as well. As intended in the salvage plan the vessel will be towed to Hamburg Port by 5 tugs.

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Press release no.7

Date: 9 February 2016

CSCL INDIAN OCEAN in Hamburg

Central Command for Maritime Emergencies terminates operation

The container vessel CSCL INDIAN OCEAN has arrived at Hamburg Port and tied up at the Predöhlkai. The towing-voyage with five tugs from the place of grounding to the port passed without incident. According to current findings, the vessel is fully functional. The CSCL INDIAN OCEAN will now be classified. Since 11:00 hrs CCME has terminated the four-day operation. 26 vessels and CCME's pollution control aircraft participated in the entire operation.

According to the current calculations, the dredgers have removed 65000m³ of ground for preparing the towing. The riverbed will be restored.

Together with the salvage companies KOTUG Offshore B.V. and Smit Salvage B.V., CCME had developed a salvage-concept. The sea-going-tugs UNION MANTA of Boskalis and FAIRMOUNT EXPEDITION, six tugs of Bugsier and four tugs of Kotug, two water police boats, the Do228 of CCME, a medical emergency team of the fire brigade Cuxhaven and the multi-purpose vessel NEUWERK participated in today's operation.

Between 2:00 hrs and 2:20 hrs twelve tugs had towed the CSCL INDIAN OCEAN off the bank. The pollution control vessel of CCME observed the towing-process and did not detect any pollution emission. The block of the air space around the vessel is removed. The Elbe river is freed for the shipping traffic again.

The CSCL INDIAN OCEAN was en route to Hamburg on Wednesday, when running aground on the Elbe near Lühesand at about 22:00 hrs. At 13:45 hrs on Thursday, CCME had taken over mission control.

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