



**GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
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PRESS RELEASE

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MV FEDRA GROUNDS AT EUROPA POINT, GIBRALTAR

The MV Fedra ran aground at Europa Point, Gibraltar, in the Strait of Gibraltar, at around 1900 hours Friday 10th October in severe force 12 gale conditions. Earlier in the day the ship had reported engine failure, but in the prevailing severe weather conditions tugs were unable to prevent her grounding.

MV Fedra is a 35,000 ton Greek owned, Liberian registered bulk carrier built in 1984. The vessel was unladen at the time of the casualty and carried a crew of 31 comprising Rumanian officers and Philipino seamen.

As the vessel pounded against the cliff face at Europa Point and began to break up, Gibraltar emergency services worked against the clock to lift off the 31 crew members. This delicate and dangerous operation took 12 hours. All crew members were safely removed from the vessel, without suffering serious injuries.

The vessel was carrying around 300 tons of fuel of which at least half has already spilled into the sea. This has been controlled and treated by the Gibraltar authorities and has not polluted any seashore. The next step will be to remove the remaining fuel from the ship. It is not expected that there will be any significant or material pollution event.

The ship has now broken into two pieces around three quarter length from the bow. Once the risk of fuel contamination has been eliminated, the programme of work for the removal of the two halves of the ship will be considered by the Gibraltar Government.

The Gibraltar Government commends the excellent and professional actions of Gibraltar's emergency services, that undoubtedly saved the lives of these 31 crew members.

The Gibraltar Government also expresses its gratitude to the Spanish Government for its positive response to requests for support and to the Titan Salvage personnel who were on site the nearby wreck of the MV New Flame, and also assisted in the rescue of the crew. The Gibraltar Maritime Administration has opened an investigation.

MV TAWE

Following the grounding in Algeciras, Spain of the bulk carrier MV Tawe, the Gibraltar Government has placed all its anti-oil pollution resources at the disposal of the Algeciras Port Authority in Spain.