

**Masters and Mates Union of Greek Merchant Marine
(PEPEN)**

Human and Environmental Life Protection

HELP Workshop

Piraeus 10-13 September 2002

Description of the workshop

The workshop took place in Piraeus, Greece during 10-13 of September 2002. Organiser was the Masters and Mates Union of Greek Merchant Marine (PEPEN), with the co-financing of the General Direction of Environment of European Commission.

The workshop joined 60 people from 13 European countries, representing maritime and scientific community.

The participants were from Greece, Italy, Spain, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway. Representatives from Portugal and Iceland were also invited but they didn't nominate a participant. As there were two vacant positions, there were accepted two participants from Italy.

The expertise of participants was very diverse and this helped to the analysis of the subjects presented. Most of them were captains (masters, port-captains or in other positions). There were also engineers, scientists and officers. The participants came from different services like maritime companies, navy, emergency response units, regional authorities and ministries.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To bring together experts from 15 European countries, all of them working in subjects related to marine pollution with final aim the exchange of experience in combating marine pollution and its consequences in human health.
- To present issues related with marine accidents and their consequences in human life and health as well as in marine environment.
- To raise awareness in European level of the importance of preventing actions, contingency planning and co-operation in European level.

Structure

The workshop was split into two parallel working groups.

The issues that were covered in the workshop were:

- Prevention of marine pollution (techniques, prevention plans, surveillance, control)

- Marine pollution (measurement techniques, environmental impact, impact in ecosystems and human activities)
- Marine Accidents (issuing advice to the public and responders, prevention policies, case studies)
- Risk Assessment/ Modeling of marine pollution incidents

Each day there were about four main presentations in the same issue, and each presentation was followed by discussion and experience exchange.

Results/Impact

General impression of participants

Most participants agree that they have benefited a lot from the workshop, both from the presentations and the discussions. The topics were relevant and of interest and the discussion quite interesting. Very interesting topics were presented concerning local strategies and techniques for prevention and the discussions were concentrated to the identification of the differences and the comparisons between different countries.

Almost all participants agree that this kind of workshops is useful and can bring results provided that there is adequate dissemination to the relevant authorities.

Results

The tangible results of the workshop are:

- a web-site that will include all the information about the action as well as materials from the presentations (texts and presentations) followed by some conclusions from the discussions.
- a CD-ROM including presented topics divided in thematic areas. The CD-ROM will be in multimedia format.
- a book including a summary of the presentations of the workshop with the conclusions of each session.

All the results will be in three languages: English, French and Greek.

Intangible results are:

- the awareness of the stakeholders in preventing actions for the protection of marine environment and human health
- the exchange of experience
- the enforcement of collaboration in operational level between EU member states.

Dissemination

The workshop was disseminated properly in national level. At the beginning of the workshop there was an opening conference in which the President of PEPEN introduced the workshop. The Minister of Merchant Marine Mr Georgios Anomeritis presented the national policy for marine environment and Ms Louise Head, official from the European Commission presented the community policy for marine pollution and accident prevention. The conference was attended by around 100 people, among

them representatives from the Ministry, the local authorities and the Greek maritime community. A local TV channel and the majority of Greek daily newspapers covered the workshop with articles. The efforts for publicity and dissemination in local level will continue after the publishing of the results.

In European level the main instrument for the dissemination of the results will be the project web-site, accompanied by a news-letter.