

Summary on the Training Course on Response to Oil Pollution at Sea and on the Coast organized by World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden, during 02 to 06 October 2001

1 Description of action

Following the European Community award of a grant, the World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden, prepared and delivered a Training Course on the 'Oil Pollution at Sea and on the Coast' from 02 to 06 of October 2001.

After an invitation from the Civil Protection and Environmental accidents unit (ENV.B4) of DG Environment a total of 27 participants were received from 12 countries. Finland did not propose any candidate for which reason, after consulting with the Commission, we decided to accept additional candidates from Ireland, France and Italy.

The course was delivered by competent WMU staff members and external lecturers from the Commission (DG Environment), Germany (Federal Unit for Marine Pollution Control), and the United Kingdom (ITOPF). The course focused on

- Sources and effects of marine pollutants
- Contingency planning and crisis management
- Combating of oil at sea and treatment of recovered wastes
- Overview about international regulations with regard to oil pollution and compensation of damage

All papers were presented in English with simultaneous translation into French. The course material, consisting of manuals in English and French, were delivered before the beginning of the course. The course modules were followed by videos related to the topic of the lessons. The videos greatly contributed to the better understanding of the subject matters.

The module duration was normally one hour – consisting of 45 minutes for the presentation and 15 minutes for questions and discussions. It was observed that participants were very interested in sharing different opinions and views and in receiving information on the systems and organization from other countries.

The last day of the course was devoted to a practical exercise simulating a collision between a tanker and a general cargo ship. The participants had to carry out different manoeuvres to respond to the oil pollution and to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of the harmful pollutants contained in some drifting drums.

2 Objectives of the action

The objective of the course was to bring together experts in maritime environment protection from the different EU countries. The course was mainly dedicated to train beginners or personnel with only a little experience in this subject.

Apart from lecturing on the theoretical background information, the course was designed to provide participants with the knowledge of first-hands report about real cases and the problems that have occurred during these accidents. The Erika and Baltic Carrier were used as examples along with others. The aim was to combine a solid and balanced combination of theory and practice.



3 Results / Impact for the future

At the end of the course, the participants were asked to do an assessment. The comments highlight the following points.

- 3.1 According to the opinions from the participants, the course was considered balanced in regards to quantity and a rating from good to very good in the quality of lectures presented.
- 3.2 The participants emphasized that an interesting aspect to the course was the opportunity to meet colleagues from other European Union countries and to exchange difference points of view.
- 3.3 Some suggestions have been made to give more emphasis on practical training and use of equipment.
- 3.4 Other suggestions refer to the interest in having more time for general discussions.
- 3.5 Summarizing the suggestions, it appears that participants prefer to attend to a course that gives them the opportunity to present opinions and have more discussions. In this respect, it could be proposed to move from the presentation of courses to organization workshops with few magisterial presentations and the allocation of time for the intervention of participants interested in doing so.

Conclusions for future activities can be summarised as follows. There is a greater demand for interactive learning. This means participants should be given more time to work in groups and to express their own ideas. Furthermore, the idea of exchange was underestimated so far. An essential part of these activities is that people get to know their colleagues. More time should be given to consider reports from the different countries.

However, the results and the feedback from the participants are encouraging. There is a great demand to meet colleagues from different EU countries, which means that these activities support the European idea and should be continued.

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Jens-Uwe Schröder
Deputy Course Director

