

EUROMED WORKING GROUP ON MARITIME SAFETY

Second meeting

Brussels, 23 June 2003

OFFICIAL REPORT

The second meeting of the Euromed Working Group on maritime safety was held in Brussels on 23 June 2003, at the level of high-officials for maritime transport. The list of participants is attached.

Three main points were dealt with at this meeting:

- 1) the presentation of the activities and results of the ongoing MEDA projects in the field of maritime safety;
- 2) the presentation of the ongoing Euromed Transport Project financed under the MEDA programme;
- 3) the discussion of the main guidelines of the future MEDA regional project on maritime safety (SAFEMED).

This official report appears as a statement of the conclusions of the meeting and does not show the interventions of the participants.

A. Presentation of the activities and results of the ongoing MEDA projects in the field of maritime safety

The International Maritime Organisation presented the activities and results of 3 ongoing MEDA projects under its management:

- 1) Strengthening the maritime administrations (capacity building for effective flag and port state control);
- 2) Support for the implementation of the STCW convention;
- 3) Support for the implementation of the ISM code.

REMPEC (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea) also made a presentation on the activities carried out under the ongoing MEDA project on port reception facilities, which is being implemented by REMPEC on behalf of IMO.

The IMO stressed the lack of human and financial resources to which are confronted most of the Mediterranean Partners' maritime administrations, and the need for technical assistance for the effective implementation of the IMO conventions and resolutions.

B. Presentation of the ongoing Euromed Transport Project financed under MEDA

The European Commission together with the consultant in charge of the main contract (GTZ) presented the broad outline of the Euromed Transport project, which is the first MEDA regional project in the transport sector with a multimodal purpose. The

activities of this project started in the second quarter of 2003. Emphasis was put on the synergies and complementarities to exploit between the Euromed Transport Project and the future SAFEMED project. The presentation made by GTZ appears as an annex.

The discussion which followed the presentation of the Euromed Transport Project highlighted two fields in which the Euromed Transport Project could usefully contribute by means of specific studies:

1) Mediterranean Memorandum on port state control: the Euromed Transport Project could, within the framework of the overall diagnosis on the transport sector, analyse the reasons of the weaknesses of the Mediterranean Memorandum and make specific proposals to upgrade the functioning of this Memorandum vis-à-vis the Paris Memorandum;

2) Euromed coordination in the framework of the IMO: the Euromed Transport Project could make specific proposals on how to improve the exchange of upstream information on the EU measures in preparation, in order to facilitate common positions at Euromed level within the IMO.

C. Discussion of the main guidelines of the future MEDA regional project on maritime safety

The Commission submitted for discussion to the members of the group a working document on the guidelines of a future MEDA regional project on maritime safety.

As a result of the remarks expressed by the participants on the SAFEMED guidelines document, it was agreed that the document should be revised and be complemented, in particular in order to incorporate a "security" volet and to take into account certain concerns expressed by the members of the group (traffic separation systems, crisis management, refuge ports, etc). The revised version of the SAFEMED document will be transmitted to the participants at the end of August. Participants will then have a two to three weeks deadline to forward their comments to the Commission services.

D. Next steps

Transmission of the revised version of the SAFEMED document to the members of the group: end of August 2003

Submission to the MED Committee of the SAFEMED project (approval of MEDA financing): November 2003

Effective start of the SAFEMED project (indicative timetable): first term 2004

E. Details of the Secretariat of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum

The Secretariat of the Forum and of the Working Groups is provided by the European Commission (Directorate-General for Energy and of Transport).

Contact points: Mr Patrick Lambert, Head of Unit

Mrs Anne-Charlotte Bournoville
Tel. + 32.2.296.73.04
fax + 32.2.295.98.16
e-mail: Anne-Charlotte.Bournoville@cec.eu.int

Address: European Commission – DG TREN/A3
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Annexes: List of participants
Presentation on the Euomed Transport Project