

Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum
Maritime Safety Sub-Group 3rd Meeting-
Brussels, 18 December 2006

Conclusions

1. Welcomes the progress made on the cooperation with the MEDA partners in maritime safety.
2. The “Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED” project will be instrumental in assisting the Mediterranean Partners in enhancing the implementation of international maritime standards.
3. Further welcomes the nomination of national contact points for each one of the Mediterranean Partners to SAFEMED and stress the importance of their active participation to the project for the implementation of its objectives.
4. The network of contact points will be regularly informed on the progress made. SAFEMED will finalise and present to the Commission and national contact points the project’s work plan for 2007. Also the contact points should inform the European Commission and the SAFEMED project on the initiatives taken at national level.
5. The Euro-Med working group on maritime safety, which is also the Advisory Committee of SAFEMED project, will be the group responsible to follow the progress made and therefore will convene regularly (at least once per year).
6. More specifically, the Euro-Med working group underlines the importance of an efficient policy for the prevention of air pollution from ships, welcomes the ongoing revision of MARPOL ANNEX VI within the IMO framework and recommends close cooperation between the EU Member States and the Mediterranean Partners during this revision process.
7. The group acknowledges the importance of twinning activities in maritime safety and security between EU Member States and some Mediterranean Countries and invites other MEDA Partners to apply for such a type of technical assistance.
8. Noted the SAFEMED Project activities planned for 2007 and committed themselves to offer full co-operation in the forthcoming activities, notably:
 - IMLI and WMU fellowships;
 - Training activities and awareness;
 - Needs Assessment Missions in the field of maritime security and prevention of pollution from ships.

9. The upcoming SAFEMED II Project should ensure continuity and complementarity with the actions of SAFEMED I especially in relation to:
- compliance with IMO conventions and alignment with EU legislation on maritime safety and security;
 - Port State Control and harmonization of Paris MOU and Mediterranean MOU;
 - Development of a regional VTMS system;
 - Identification of a network of places of refuge in the Mediterranean partner countries;
 - Training of maritime personnel in cooperation with existing training entities in the EU Member States and Mediterranean Partners such as AASTMT.