



Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum
Maritime Transport Working Group
Maritime Safety Sub-group
Brussels 07/02/2008

Conclusions

- The Maritime Safety sub-group held its 4th meeting on 7 February 2008 in Brussels chaired by the European Commission.
- Representatives from the Euro-Mediterranean Partners (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, France, Italy, Malta, Slovenia), EMSA, IMO, REMPEC and CETMO attended the meeting.

The group:

- noted the **Regional Transport Action Plan for the Mediterranean Region 2007 – 2013** as adopted in May 2007 by the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum.
- highlighted the relevance of actions 7, 8 and 9 for :
 - » full implementation of safety and security requirements
 - » development of cooperation with EMSA,
 - » implementation of VTS / VTMIS in Mediterranean region.
- confirmed the commitment from all parties involved to contribute to the successful completion of these actions in the short or medium term as defined in this Action Plan.

- took note of the information provided by the European Commission and EMSA regarding EuroMed co-operation in the transport sector and the EU maritime safety and security policies including activities by EMSA.

- welcomed the progress made in the **implementation of the SAFEMED project** since its last meeting in December 2006.
- in particular, acknowledged the benefits to be derived from the expertise and training provided by the project to help mitigate the gap between EU Member States and the Mediterranean partners.
- confirmed the commitment of all SAFEMED participants to fully co-operate in the forthcoming activities, notably:
 - » IMLI fellowships;
 - » Training activities;
 - » Assessment missions in the field.

- acknowledged the importance of **twinning activities** in maritime safety and security between EU Member States and Mediterranean partners and invited all Mediterranean partners to consider such technical assistance.

- welcomed the agreement signed between the European Commission and IMO on the implementation of SAFEMED II
- SAFEMED II will run from 2009 to 2011 and cover the following activities:
 - » Transition from SAFEMED I
 - » flag State implementation
 - » Strengthening of PSC
 - » VTMIS equipment and related services
 - » Protection of the marine environment
 - » Security of ships and port facilities.
- In this context, the group acknowledged the importance of ratifying the 2006 ILO Maritime Labour Convention.

- Underlined the importance of international cooperation within **IMO** regarding maritime safety, maritime security and prevention of pollution from ships.
- Highlighted the need for an efficient policy for the prevention of **air pollution from ships** and recommended close cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean partners. In this regard, the importance of acceding to MARPOL Annex VI was highlighted.

- Acknowledged the progress made in general by the Mediterranean partners regarding maritime safety as witnessed inter alia by their positions on the black/grey/white lists of the Paris MoU on Port State Control.
- Urged all Mediterranean partners to continue and increase, where possible, their efforts on maritime safety.
- The group also agreed on the need to further enhance maritime security, notably through a robust implementation of SOLAS XI/2 and the ISPS Code.