

**EUROMED TRANSPORT FORUM  
MARITIME TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP  
MARITIME SAFETY SUB-GROUP**

Fourth Meeting

*Brussels, 7 February 2008*

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

Within the framework of the Maritime Transport Working Group of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Forum, the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Maritime Safety Sub-Group, which is also the SAFEMED Project Advisory Committee, was held in Brussels on the 7 February 2008, at the level of high officials for maritime safety and security, and chaired by the European Commission (EC). The final list of participants is attached.

The main objective of the Meeting was to discuss the progress of the EU-financed MEDA regional project “Euromed Co-operation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED” and to provide an update on the latest developments in EuroMed co-operation in the field of maritime safety and security.

The Meeting adopted the agenda attached to this report.

This official report reflects the main issues discussed during the meeting and does not contain the interventions of the participants.

**A. Euromed co-operation in the transport sector/Regional Transport Action Plan**

The EC delivered a presentation on Euromed transport co-operation highlighting the priorities identified for the maritime transport sector, in particular for maritime safety, by the 2005 Marrakech Euromed Ministerial Transport Conference and reflected in the Regional Transport Action Plan 2007-2013 adopted last year.

**B. Latest developments in EU maritime safety and security policy**

The European Commission (EC) outlined the latest developments in EU maritime safety and security policy focusing on recently adopted European legislation and European legislation and policies presently under consideration or preparation, including the Integrated EU Maritime Policy. Emphasis was made on recent developments in the implementation of European maritime security legislation in particular EU Directive 2005/65/EC on ports security.

During the discussion on this agenda item, the importance of international co-operation within the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regarding maritime safety, maritime security and prevention of pollution from ships was underlined. Reference was also made to the need for an efficient policy for the prevention of air pollution from ships and, in this regard, the Meeting recommended close cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean partners, and highlighted the importance of acceding to MARPOL Annex VI. The Meeting also underlined the importance of acceding to the ILO Maritime Labour Convention and acknowledged the need to assist the Mediterranean partners to accede to this Convention.

### **C. European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA): Latest developments**

The Representatives of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) delivered a presentation on the work of the Agency highlighting its operational objectives and focusing on its technical assistance activities such as training actions, the European network of oil recovery vessels, the CleanSeaNet network, SafeSeaNet and the planned Common Mediterranean Regional Automatic Identification System.

In reply to a question from one of the Mediterranean partners Representatives, the Representatives of the EC and EMSA explained that, although EMSA's operational services such as the oil recovery vessel service were only available to EU Member States, European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) Contracting States and the EU candidate countries, in case of a major emergency, the EC's Community Mechanism for Civil Protection can be called upon by any non-EU country, and such requests could be considered by the EC on a case by case basis. It was however pointed out that, even in the case of EU Member States, the oil recovery vessel service was not provided free of charge since the requesting Member State had to pay for the service provided by the owner of the oil recovery vessel. The EC Representatives also informed the Meeting that the Commission had initiated a review of the EC Regulation establishing EMSA and the possibility of extending the Agency's activities to third countries could be considered during this review process.

### **D. SAFEMED Project: Review of activities during 2006 and 2007 and future activities**

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) updated the Meeting on the implementation of the activities and achievements of the EU-financed MEDA regional project "Euromed Cooperation on Maritime Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships – SAFEMED", during 2006 and 2007. During this period, the Project prepared various guidelines, reports and studies to assist the beneficiaries in the implementation of international maritime instruments including a study on Flag State Administrations, a report on the adequate monitoring of classification societies, guidelines and procedures to facilitate the designation of places of refuge for ships in need of assistance, and guidelines and procedures on the safe removal and final disposal of anti-fouling waste. Several training activities including a short training course for vessel traffic services managers and operators, and a seminar on the AFS Convention were also organized. Moreover, during this period, the Project also funded fellowships to students from the beneficiaries to follow long term training courses at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) and at the World Maritime University (WMU).

REMPEC also provided the Meeting with an overview of the actions and activities planned for 2008, the last year of the project. A status report on the implementation of the SAFEMED Project activities was also circulated to all participants.

The Group, welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the SAFEMED Project, acknowledged the benefits of the Project, and confirmed the commitment of all SAFEMED participants to fully cooperate in the forthcoming activities.

During the discussion, some Mediterranean partners Representatives pointed out that the proficiency in the English language of some of their Maritime Administration officials' created difficulties particularly with regard to long term training. The Participants also

highlighted the importance of vessel traffic monitoring infrastructure for the Mediterranean partners. In this regard, there was a suggestion that the planned EU's Mediterranean Regional Automatic Identification System (AIS) network could perhaps be extended in due time to Mediterranean non-EU Member countries.

#### **E. Presentations by the Resident Twinning Project Representatives of Morocco and Egypt**

The resident twinning project representatives of the EU Twinning Projects in Morocco and Egypt delivered presentations on their respective twinning projects detailing their actions and activities in the two Mediterranean partner countries, and underlining the importance of the commitment and co-operation of the two sides for the successful implementation of the twinning project.

The Group 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.

#### **F. SAFEMED II – Follow up to the SAFEMED Project**

The Representatives of the EC informed the Meeting that in view of the positive experience of the present SAFEMED Project, the EC had concluded an agreement with IMO for the implementation of a new EU-financed MEDA regional project, SAFEMED II, to follow up and complement the present SAFEMED Project. The new project, which will have a duration of three years starting in 2009 and an overall budget of 5.5 Million Euro, and will primarily be implemented by REMPEC, will cover the following main areas of activity: transition from SAFEMED I, flag State implementation, strengthening of port State control, vessel traffic monitoring and information system equipment and related services, protection of the marine environment, and security of ships and port facilities. The Meeting was informed that although the specific tasks of the project were provisionally agreed between the EC and IMO, these were subject to review in view of the final results of SAFEMED I.

The Representative of IMO stated that IMO attaches a lot of importance to this project and views the project as a natural continuation of SAFEMED I. The Representative of REMPEC emphasized the importance of the commitment of all beneficiaries and reminded the Mediterranean partners Representatives that the active participation of their Maritime Administrations was a condition for the success of the project.

The Group welcomed the agreement signed between the EC and IMO on SAFEMED II.

Representatives from the EU MS requested to be kept informed of the developments under Safemed I and II.

#### **G. Conclusions**

The Meeting discussed and adopted a number of conclusions attached to this report.

## **H. Coordinates of the Forum**

The Secretariat of the Forum and of its Working Group is provided by the European Commission (Directorate General Energy and Transport-DGTREN)

Contact point:

Mrs. Anna Panagopoulou  
DG TREN/A3  
Tel: + 32.2.296.78.94  
Fax: + 32.2.295.98.16  
[Anna.Panagopoulou@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Anna.Panagopoulou@ec.europa.eu)

Contact point for EuropeAid Co-operation Office:

Mr. Leonidas Kioussis  
DG AIDCO/A3  
Tel: + 32.2.299.28.51  
Fax: + 32.2.295.56.65  
[Leonidas.Kioussis@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Leonidas.Kioussis@ec.europa.eu)

Address: The European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

Annexes: Final List of participants  
Agenda of the Meeting  
Conclusions of the Meeting