

Workshop “Minimisation of environmental damage in case of marine pollution”

11-14 October 2006, Bremen

Background

Protection of the marine environment and the reduction of maritime pollution represent a major challenge in the collaboration between European states, in respect to which the role of the European Union is defined through the *Community framework for cooperation in the field of accidental or deliberate marine pollution*, a framework programme designed to run from 01.01.2000 until 31.12.2006. The programme includes action which focuses on the reduction of and the adequate reaction to cases of marine pollution. The Institute for Recycling and Environmental Protection has organised and conducted workshops continuously since 2002 within the framework of this European programme, with each workshop focusing on a different aspect of marine pollution.

This year, the Institute for Recycling and Environmental Protection, in collaboration with BLG Consult of Bremen and with co-financing provided by the European Commission, from 11 – 14.10.2006, carried out a workshop with the title, “*Minimisation of environmental damage in case of marine pollution*”.

Aims and Results of the Workshop

The aim of the workshop was to analyse the short, medium and long-term effects of environmental pollution resulting from accidental spills of mineral oil and other chemical substances. The results of the workshop included the formulation of guidelines dealing with the organisational and practical aspects of marine environmental protection and with reducing marine pollution. Emphasis was placed on observing and monitoring effects on the environment, especially



following accidental spills or shipping accidents, estimating the degree of environmental damage, adequate methods and technology for dealing with it, and aspects of health and safety pertaining to those involved in clean-up measures. The guidelines are being made available to relevant institutions within the EU.

Workshop participants working on developing the guidelines

The Participants

The participants, from EU member states, as well as from Norway and Iceland, all of whom are involved with protecting the marine environment, were nominated by the EU. In addition, the Institute for Recycling and Environmental Protection also invited experts with research and practical experience to give lectures on their particular areas of knowledge. In this year's workshop, a total of 30 experts from 12 European countries were involved, who engaged with each other in an intensive exchange of experience and knowledge. The presentation of actual cases of marine pollution, in particular, facilitated the discussion of specific problems and their solutions. The overall impression was that the workshop made a valuable contribution to the network of European expertise in this area of concern.

Activities



Beside the practical work on developing guidelines, the workshop also included lectures by experts in particular areas of research and practice relating to the workshop's various points of focus. The Institute for Recycling and Environmental Protection was given special support in carrying out the workshop by the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Cuxhaven. With an invitation to their annual exercise on the River Weser in Bremerhaven, workshop participants were given a vivid demonstration of the most modern technology used in combating (oil) spills at sea. Apart from the presentation of equipment used in combating marine pollution and other technical equipment, participants were also shown how leaking chemical containers can be made safe by the GS "NEUWERK" and the MS "KNECHTSAND"



Legend:

Demonstration of the oil collecting device on board the MS "KNECHTSAND" (above)

Capt. Ilf Bustorff, Havariekommando, explaining some of the equipment aboard GS "NEUWERK" (below)