

Closing remarks

Interreg MSUO Maritime Safety Project fairs

Antwerp 5 and 6 of June 2007

Dear Ladies and gentlemen

We are now at the end of the Interreg MSUO Maritime Safety Project Fair and it has been a fruitful conference, not only for the MSUO, which was your host today, but I think above all for you. You make the effort to join us in order to know what Interreg IV will be able to do, in the future for the development of Maritime Safety and you learn a lot. Interreg IV is after these two days an easier concept for you, and you know now that good and strategic projects in the Maritime Safety sector could be co-financed by Interreg IV programme.

Of course, you will need to follow the guidelines included in the Operational Programme, of each Interreg IV area and of each strand A, B and C.

A bit of work to do before benefiting of the Interreg co-financing but most of you have done that by the past, so you have the capacity. The MSUO conference is now facilitating your access to the Interreg IV "world" but resuming these two days and concluding them in five minutes will not be easy.

10 nationalities, more than 120 participants, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the regions, the Association of the European Border regions, the Industry, the ports, the National Coastal Administrations, the shipping press, and more, it was an event in the Maritime Safety sector.

I would like first of all to thank the actors who helped the MSUO to organize this event.

My colleague Mr. Wouter Bol who invested a lot of his time and energy in the building of this conference. He was the key actor of this event and I would like on your behalf to congratulate him for his work.

En Français, au nom de tous les participants et organisateurs « Merci Wouter. »

Bruna Jorgensen, my other colleague like she did in the MSUO Brussels conference on the "place of refuge" was as usual very efficient and I thank her on your behalf.

The Interreg III B Secretariat North Sea was during the last six months a real support for the MSUO and they invested on this conference, I hope that they will be pleased with this result.

What are we doing at MSUO now after this conference?

A lot of work of course because I can tell you that you have been a very productive public and we are facing now a huge number of projects ideas, of methodological advises, of reorganization ideas for our data base and of new orientation for the MSUO.



"Co-operating to create, maintain and implement a safer maritime environment"

The main output of this conference for the MSUO is the interest that you demonstrated for our operation and we will do our best to extract from the last two days, the project ideas, which were presented, and discussed in the workshops as explained by Mr. Wouter Bol previously. So now we will let you develop your project ideas, to begin the building of your consortium and to follow carefully the next call for application. after the month of September 2007.

The MSUO will be there to facilitate the access to the right information in order for you to be efficient when the calls will be published.

Interregional Cooperation projects need to be prepared and as I show you this morning with the short presentation on the software Mind Manager, you will need to quote, to make references to a certain number of European Policies or Strategies among them

- Lisbon agenda
- Göteborg Agenda
- Green Book on Maritime Policy
- European Maritime Safety Agency and a lot of more.

It means that the MSUO will provide you the frame in which you will develop your project. A project of Interregional Cooperation is by definition a project that you have to make in common. It is not the kind of co-financing that will pay you first developing your best idea. No, it is first of all a project to gather several partners who will decide to work together, and to follow a certain number of priorities.

These priorities, you will have to know them by heart and to have as a “bible” the Operational Programme of the areas in which you want to develop your project.

So do not hesitate to call the MSUO when you will be ready with your project idea, your consortium in order to get from us some advice.

The next programming period 2007-2013 is very exciting because we have the chance this time as MSUO to be in contact with you as project promoters at the beginning.

You understand now the role of the MSUO as a facilitator in the Interreg “world” but also as a potential link as I stated this morning between the Research projects in the Maritime sector and the Interregional Cooperation ones.

This is really an opening for the future and a possibility to exploit the fantastic potential of Europe in the Maritime sector.

The Maritime Policy Task Force, which initiated the Green Book, showed that Europe is the first Power in Maritime economy in the World and Europeans could be proud of that.

The Interreg IV offers you the opportunity to work, to share ideas, concepts; results in order to increase Maritime Safety and we as MSUO are made to facilitate this process. So use it.

The MSUO, which began its activity in the North of Europe, is more over asked to expand its activity further south and our conference welcomed representatives from 10 countries but also from the Mediterranean side of Europe.

This is a success for the MSUO and I would like to inform you that in its contribution to the Green Book the Intermediterranean Commission of the CPMR is asking for the establishment of a MSUO in this area. This is a very interesting new one on which we will work as MSUO.



“Co-operating to create, maintain and implement a safer maritime environment”

Several projects has been proposed by Mediterranean Partners through the answers to the MSUO questionnaire and you know also as it was explained by Mrs. Viktoria Varga Lencses from the European Commission that a certain amount of the project budges could be dedicated to trans programme projects.

It will not be easy to organise these projects but the South and the North of Europe will have the possibility to exchange in Maritime Safety.

I am sure that this will be positive

Conclusion

To conclude now this major event for the MSUO, let me invite you to contact us as soon as possible and to inform us about your projects, we will support you to identify partners, to check the priorities of the Operational Programme and to help you to find what was made by past projects during the Interreg III B period.

The MSUO is your operation,

Connect yourself to www.maritime-safety.org

Good visit to the port of Antwerp, our main sponsor for this event
Thanks for your participation.

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MSUO coordinator



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