

## Antwerp 5 and 6 of June 2007

Dear Ladies and gentlemen

Welcome to Antwerp on behalf of the MSUO, for the First Interreg MSUO maritime Project fair.

We are preparing this event since some months and it is always with a certain fear that you begin such a conference. I know that you are expecting from the Maritime Safety Umbrella Operation, precise information about the opportunities that the new programme of Interregional Cooperation could offer to your project ideas and we did our best to invite the more adequate speakers for this event.

I would like to present you the Programme of the day but before that some words of explanation for the participants who don't know the MSUO.

The MSUO created 3 years ago is the first Interreg trans programme initiative, initiated by the Interreg IIB North Sea Secretariat with the support of the Northern Periphery one, The Baltic sea and the North West Europe ones

A first initiative recognised by the European Commission and the MSUO was quoted as a pilot operation which was given as an example several times

The MSUO which main objective is to coordinate or better facilitated the cooperation between projects in order to avoid overlapping and gaps was really busy during these three years and despite of that it organized a series of conference on issues selected by his members

Three conferences were organized on

- Best Practice in Local Contingency Planning, Pollution Response in UK
- Refuge Area Best Practice: Identification, Planning and Stakeholder Involvement In Belgium
- Safe Sustainable and financed Motorways of the Sea in Finland

These conferences demonstrated the need of such event to gather the European Maritime Stakeholders in the Maritime sector and the impact of such conferences

They helped also for the recognition of the MSUO and I hope that this new conference will achieve the same results.

Let me introduce you now the speakers of the day.



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

From 14:00 to 14:20

Opening by Mr Tony Vuylsteke who will replace the *Capt. Jacques D'Havé* Administrator-General, Maritime Services Division of Flanders

Mr Tony Vuylsteke is the Commercial Directeur of this administration

From 14:20- 14:45 *Dirk Sterckx*; Member of the European Parliament will present the *'Future projects seen from a European point of view'*

From 15:00- 15:20 *Urban Hallberg*, DG Transport and Energy, European Commission will give us the *'Maritime Safety Project point of view from the DG Tren'*.

From 15:20- 15:45 *Viktoria Varga-Lencses*, DG-Regio, European Commission will present the *Maritime Safety projects in the context of Interreg Programmes*

From 15:45– 16:15 *Richard Hill* (MSUO contractor) will introduce the achievements and potential project ideas

From 16:15– 16:30 a Coffee break will be served

From 16:30- 16:55 The Baltic Master (Interreg Baltic Sea Programme) will be presented by *Daniël Skøld*

From 16:55- 17:20 The Safety@Sea (Interreg Northern Periphery programme) ) will be presented by *Iain Campbell*

From 17:20– 17:45 The MESH (Interreg North West Programme) ) will be presented by *Natalie Coltman*

From 17:45- 18:10 EROCIPS (Interreg Atlantic Space Programme) will be presented by *Melanie Parker* and she will be followed by *Mt Mr Leleu* who will introduce you the *Green Atlantic Sustainable Development project*

From 18:10- 18:30 the difficult exercise of the Conclusions of the day 1. will be made *Pim Bonne*, Policy Port Division *'Flemish Ministry of Mobility and Public Works'*

From 19:00– 20:30 a reception will be offered at Antwerp City Hall (Grote Markt 1) by the port of Antwerp and a Welcome by Mr who will replace Mr *Marc van Peel*, alderman of the port of Antwerp



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