



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

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By your side for this new year, the newly reorganised Cedre team wishes you good health and happiness for 2014!



In short

Meetings

► The meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors and its general assembly were held at the *Armateurs de France* headquarters in Paris on 10 December.

Dates for the diary

► Information Day 2014 on "Hazardous and noxious substances" on Tuesday 1st April 2014, in Paris.

[Programme](#) and [Registration form](#).

► **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24-26 March 2015 in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Calls for tender

► The CPMR has issued three calls for tender for the implementation of the project "Vasco da Gama: Training for greener and safer maritime transport", jointly funded by the European Union (DG MOVE). Application deadline: 20/01/2014. See [here](#) for details.

Emergency Response

Cedre received various enquiries relating to: a problem caused by a persistent smell in a home following a heating oil spill, the identity of oil cleaning products which may have been used on an old mining facility, the risks following the grounding of a fishing vessel in Seine-Maritime, the MARPOL classification of an olive oil spill, information on water sampling and analysis methods following a heating oil spill in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon and finally a pollution risk (ultimately controlled) by two tanks of chemicals (hydrochloric acid and soda) near the banks of the river Isole (Finistère) in spate due to the storm of 23rd December. Furthermore, following the observation of suspicious patches on the 27th, by the fire brigade (CODIS 22), on Brestan beach (Pleubian area, Côtes d'Armor), an agent from Cedre was sent on site on the 28th to conduct a joint survey with two deputy mayors. The samples taken showed that the patches were of organic origin (peat), surfacing due to sediment movement (shingle bed) caused by the recent weather conditions. Finally, following the activation of the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and its Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), mobilised and coordinated with UNEP-OCHA, a mission involving an expert from Cedre for the Philippine authorities, from 28th November to 23rd December, following a leak of several hundred tonnes of heavy fuel oil caused by the grounding of a powership on an inhabited coast of Panay Island during the typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan). The mission consisted of assessing the extent of the coast's contamination and its potential environmental impact, and advising the authorities on the clean-up and monitoring operations to be conducted.

Training courses

As our annual programme of training courses ended last month, the training actions conducted this month were exclusively client-tailored courses. The first action was conducted from 3rd to 5th December in Ajaccio (Corsica) for 20 trainees from EDF, DPLC (Corsican oil depot) and berthing and port services companies. This course focuses on response in ports to spills of refined products and involved 2 equipment deployment exercises around the oil wharf in Ajaccio. On the 10th, 2 half-days of training were run for staff from the Morbihan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Eighteen people were trained in the use of oil-only and universal sorbent kits. The year ended with Cedre's participation in 3 diploma courses: the Inter-School Diploma in Disaster and Environmental Veterinary Medicine, the University Diploma in Maritime Medicine and the chemical hazards course RCH4. For the RCH4 course organised at ENSOSP, Cedre gave a 3-hour presentation on its role and missions, as well as the services offered to chemical risk technical advisers in the fire brigade, illustrated with past examples, for the 16 officers on the course.

9th Economy of the Sea Congress

The French newspapers *Le Marin* and *Les Echos* organised the 9th Economy of the Sea Congress in Montpellier and Sète (Hérault) on the 3rd and 4th December, in collaboration with the French Maritime Cluster and the French Maritime Institute (IFM). This event, which attracted several hundred maritime economy stakeholders, was honoured with the presence of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Overseas Territories and the Delegate Minister in charge of Transport, the Sea and Fishing. This annual congress is the opportunity to comprehensively review the maritime economy in France, its future prospects and the challenges it must face, through plenary sessions and thematic workshops. The development of the use of renewable marine energies and deep-sea mineral resources, as well as environmental protection, were the key topics addressed this year.

ARCOPOLplus project and e-learning tools

As part of the ARCOPOLplus project, Pembrokeshire County Council (Wales), a project partner, commissioned *Cedre* to develop an e-learning tool devoted to the management of waste collected on the shoreline following an oil or HNS spill. A *Cedre* engineer was present at Cardiff Metropolitan University from 2nd to 5th December in order to adapt the tool developed from the ARCOPOL manual entitled "Guidance on Waste Management during a shoreline pollution incident" to the university's Moodle platform via specially designed software. This mission was the opportunity to finalise this document and to learn to use new tools, as well as to learn more about the concept of e-learning, which is very popular in the UK in particular for local authority training.

Perenco Cameroon

The Cameroon subsidiary of the French group Perenco, today Cameroon's leading oil operator, contracted *Cedre* to update its oil spill contingency plans. In just over a week, two engineers visited all the offshore sites concerned. In the North, this consisted of the Rio del Rey and Moudi fields and facilities, as well as FSU Massongo, and in the South, Ebomé production site and FSU La Lobé. The revision of these contingency plans will be the chance to reinforce the company's response systems and equipment, and to pursue the training effort implemented over the past years, in particular by conducting practical exercises at sea and crisis management exercises, jointly run by *Cedre*.

Medexpol 2013 workshop

From 10th to 12th December, a *Cedre* engineer attended the Medexpol 2013 workshop organised in Athens (Greece) by REMPEC and MOIG. This participation, funded by IPIECA, came in response to REMPEC's decision to organise a session on in situ burning of oil slicks. *Cedre* presented the burning operations implemented during the *Deepwater Horizon* spill as well as the work conducted at *Cedre* on this topic. The workshop attracted almost 100 people from the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, the oil industry (BP), spill response companies (OSRL) and European and international organisations (IMO).

BE-AWARE project final conference

A *Cedre* engineer, upon request by General Secretariat for the Sea, attended the final conference of the BE-AWARE project (run by the Bonn Agreement secretariat) held on the premises of the World Maritime University (WMU), in Malmö (Sweden) on 10th and 11th December. At this conference, the main results were presented to the contracting parties and participants, and in particular the methodology for developing a sensitivity atlas as well as maps to analyse current and future risks for the area concerned (Bonn Agreement). The aims, partners and budget of the project BE-AWARE 2, proposed as part of the latest call for projects, were also presented by the Bonn Agreement secretariat.

Plastic litter

While the EC has adopted a proposal allowing Member States to ban lightweight plastic bags, the Mediterranean has become the first sea to adopt a marine litter management plan, as part of the Barcelona Convention. This local plan is intended to reduce marine litter to a minimum and mitigate its impact on the marine environment. In keeping with this initiative, a green company is set in 2014 to market product packaging made from plastic litter collected by fishermen.

Prestige case verdict rendered

On 13th November, the court of La Coruna (Spain) announced the acquittal of the captain, chief engineer and the head of the Spanish Merchant Navy at the time, accused of "damage to the environment and to protected natural areas". This decision denied victims, including the Spanish and French States, the possibility of receiving compensation for this type of damage. Only the captain, having refused to have the ship towed out to sea at the time of the accident, was sentenced to 9 months in prison, for "serious disobedience of authority". These acquittals met with general outrage in Spain. On 18th November, the Spanish State announced that it was taking the case to the Supreme Court to appeal for damages to the environment. On 22nd November, the French State also appealed to the Supreme Court for the same reasons.

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