



N° 244 E – News from March 2016

Emergency response

During March, an **Ice** network activation exercise was run, during which the national centre for the Czech Republic tested Cedre's reaction time for the provision of specific information on ethylene. In addition, the Pays d'Iroise intermunicipal community informed Cedre's duty officer of a few 20-litre jerrycans of phosphoric acid which had washed up on the beaches of northern Finistère. Cedre was also alerted as to strandings of slimy balls on the beaches of Finistère and one of our biologists was able to identify the origin of what was in fact organic matter. It is believed to be colonial ascidians ("sea squirts") torn from the seabed during sporadic events such as storms or spring tides. A fire at an industrial site in Corsica caused the release of acids, alodine and a sulfochromic mixture. The quantity spilt, estimated at several dozen litres, was difficult to determine as it was mixed with a large quantity of extinguishing water. The Regional Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Housing (**DREAL**) for Corsica called upon Cedre's expertise to predict the consequences and determine the possible response required following the release of these substances into a watercourse.

Finally, we advised our Taiwanese partners at the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) following the grounding of the *TS Taipei* on their shores.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ **ADRIASPILLCON** from 10th to 12th May 2016, Opatija, Croatia.
- ▶ **Brest 2016: maritime event** from 13th to 19th July 2016.
- ▶ **Sea Tech Week** from 10th to 14th October 2016, Quartz Congress Centre, Brest.

Training courses

- ▶ 14th to 16th March: aerial observation of pollution at sea, 16 participants.
- ▶ 21st to 24th March: maritime pollution crisis management, 17 participants.

New Director: handover reception complete with VIP guests

On 3rd March, a drinks reception was organised to mark the handover between Gilbert Le Lann and Stéphane Doll as Director of Cedre. Eighty guests shared in this special moment marked with a hint of emotion. Numerous officials and partners attended the event, including: François Cuillandre - Mayor of Brest, President of Brest Métropole Océane and President of Cedre -, Guillaume de Beauregard - Deputy Director of MRCC Corsen -, VAE Emmanuel de Oliveira - Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic -, Antoine Dosdat - Director of the Brest **Ifremer** Centre -, CF Inizan - Executive Officer of **CEPPOL** -, Bertrand Derennes - President of Afcan -, François Jacq - CEO of Ifremer -, AGAM Daniel Le Direach - Deputy Maritime Prefect -, Eric Mathais - Chief Prosecutor of Brest -, Hervé Moulinier - Vice President of Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique -, Pascal Piriou - CEO of the Piriou Group -, Frédéric Périé - Sustainable Development and Environment Manager at Total SA and President of the Cedre Strategic Committee - and Pascal Potrel - Managing Director of Les Abeilles, Bourbon Group. This turnout was a clear gauge of Cedre's strong presence in the region.

Congorep - Large-scale exercise

Following the development of the Oil Spill Contingency Plan (**OSCP**) for Congorep last year, two engineers from Cedre went on assignment to Pointe-Noire from 7th to 11th March. In addition to raising awareness among personnel within the subsidiary on the procedures and documents on spill management and the response strategies envisaged in the OSCP, this assignment was the opportunity for Congorep's HSE team to jointly organise with Cedre a full-day large-scale exercise. A tabletop crisis management exercise was therefore organised together with an equipment deployment exercise from a supply vessel, involving personnel both from the company's headquarters and from one of the offshore sites covered by the plan.

National litter collectors' day

The first national litter collectors' day was held in Wimille near Boulogne (Nord) on 18th and 19th March. Organised by the association Nature Libre, this event gathered a large number of players involved in the issue of litter on beaches and in rivers: associations (environmental and social insertion) and institutions (Water Directorate under the Environment Ministry, Seine Normandy Water Agency) from different coastal regions across France, but also Belgium, Switzerland and England. This was the opportunity to provide information on the actions conducted by participants, to discuss their motives, experiences and constraints, as well as to anticipate the establishment of a national network and the reiteration of these national days. Cedre presented the actions in progress relating to the establishment of a monitoring network which it is in charge of leading on behalf of the Environment Ministry under the **OSPAR** Convention

and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Loire estuary scientific committee

On 24th March, Cedre attended the meeting of the Loire estuary scientific committee in Nantes as an associate member. This committee is tasked with providing advice on the development or environmental management work and projects in the Loire estuary area. The agenda covered: the pre-project for the establishment of the estuary as a national nature reserve, riverbed dredging operations envisaged by GPMNSN (*Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire*), as well as experimentation and work to restore the upstream riverbed, presented by *Voies navigables de France*. This was the opportunity for Cedre to renew its support towards the actions implemented by the public interest group "GIP Estuaire Loire" presented during the day, with a particular focus on the analytic and cartographic potential of long term data series relating to the characteristics of the different compartments of the estuary. The aim of these data series is to assess environmental damages in the event of a spill in the estuary area and upstream of the Loire river.

Visit from Börger

A representative of the company Börger visited Cedre on 22nd March 2016. This firm designs, manufactures and markets chopping, storage and pumping equipment, including a range of lobe pumps liable to meet certain requirements during spill response operations.

The aim of this visit was to present the new range of "ONIXline" lobe pumps which offer a higher flow rate than previous models.

Training for Iroise Marine Natural Park

This month, Cedre organised two practical training courses upon request by the Iroise Marine Natural Park (PNMI). The first was held on 1st March on the theme of spills in ports and harbours and was attended by 2 PNMI officers and 14 representatives of the 5 ports within the PNMI. The second course was held on 9th and 10th March for 7 fishermen working in the PNMI area and was supported by CEPOL and the Allegans network.

Brest 2016 maritime festival: the countdown is on!

From 13th to 19th July, research conducted in the Brest area will be in the limelight at the Brest 2016 maritime festival. Within an area entitled "*Quai des sciences*", various scientific institutes and companies working in the fields of marine science and technology will gather together to address the theme of "Ocean and climates". Cedre will be running various demonstrations relating to the new challenges in terms of spill response. The difficulty of this event lies in capturing the attention of a highly diversified audience who have mainly come to visit the ships.

Ecological damage enshrined in the French Civil Code

The inclusion of ecological damage in the French Civil Code was approved by the National Assembly on the evening of 15th March. Ecological damage is defined as "non-negligible harm to elements or functions of ecosystems as well as to the collective benefits drawn by man from the environment". The damage is thus suffered by the environment, enabling it to be considered as a victim by the French legal system. This is a victory for many environmental protection activists. The notion of ecological damage, validated in 2012 by a legal precedent set by the Supreme Court during the *Erika* trial, is now provided for by law. Furthermore, "any person who causes severe and lasting damage to the environment is required to repair said damage". This damage should preferably be repaired "in kind", i.e. by restoring the environment at the expense of the party which damaged it. If restoration is impossible, the damage should be repaired through "financial compensation paid to the State or an organisation appointed by the State and devoted [...] to environmental protection".

Another important provision: the limitation period in terms of environment damages is now "thirty years from the date on which the party taking legal action [municipality, State, NGO...] became aware of or should have become aware of evidence of the damage" rather than "thirty years from the event giving rise to the damage" as is currently the case in the French Code of the Environment.

Oil spill in Taiwan

The container ship *TS Taipei* suffered engine failure in adverse weather conditions, causing it to hit a reef and ground on 10th March, around two nautical miles off Taiwan, north of New Taipei City (Shimen District). The 21 crew members were rescued and, on 24th, the vessel, tossed around by the waves, began to break in two, causing a leak of fuel, contaminating the shores. The Coast Guard rapidly deployed containment booms. Pumping operations are currently underway and are due to be completed in early April. Shoreline clean-up operations are being carried out by around 100 responders. The authorities fear that the oil may contaminate the cooling water intake at a nuclear power plant, located near to where the *TS Taipei* grounded. The ship was transporting around 600 containers, some of which were carrying hazardous substances. A few containers fell overboard and some were washed up on the beaches. The shipowner has chartered several cranes at the grounding site to recover the containers.