



N° 275 E – News from January 2019

Emergency response

January was a relatively calm month for Cedre's duty officers. The emergency response team pursued actions in the Var area where two experts were mobilised to monitor clean-up operations. The [Seine-Aval Public Interest Group](#) (Rouen) reported a spill, believed to be oil, in the Seine River. We received an enquiry from MRCC Corsen on the choice of product for the [MOTHY](#) slick drift forecast form. MRCC Corsen also requested an analysis and recommendations following a pollution incident near Belle-Île. We received an enquiry from the State Action at Sea division (AEM) for [French Polynesia](#), followed by [CEPPOL](#), as to the risks related to gas canisters drifting at sea after rising to the surface from a scuttled ship. The canisters were found to contain methyl bromide (UN 1062). An ICE test was organised by the Swedish centre in Stockholm. A member of the [IMO Maritime Safety Committee](#) requested data on the number of containers lost overboard each year worldwide. Finally, SARA (Société Anonyme de Raffinage des Antilles) reported a spill of foaming agent in an area of mangrove tree roots.

Cedre Information Day: 5th March

"Marine Litter"

5th March 2019, in Paris La Défense,

On the premises of the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, [MTES](#)

The programme will include: International policies, France's policy, the industry position, monitoring as well as a few examples of projects and research. The day will end with a discussion session.

Simultaneous translation will be provided.

[Registration now open!](#)

In short

Dates for the diary

- [Cedre Information Day 2019](#), on 5th March in Paris, on the theme of "[Marine Litter](#)"



Training courses

- On 23rd and 24th Jan.: Training for HNS in EMSA, Lisbonne, 16 participants

EU/DG ECHO-funded project WestMOPoCo

Funded by the European Union's civil protection mechanism ([DG ECHO](#)), the two-year project WestMOPoCo (Western Mediterranean region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation) kicked off on 2nd January 2019 coordinated by the [French General Secretariat for the Sea](#). The project also involves [IMO \(REMPEC\)](#), [ITOPF](#), the [OSPAR Commission](#), the [HELCOM Commission](#), Cedre, [ISPRA](#) (Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale, Italy), [Algeria's Commissariat National du Littoral](#), [Transport Malta](#), the [Morocco's State Secretariat](#) for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, the [Spanish Ministerio de Fomento](#), the [Tunisian National Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the [Principality of Monaco](#) which will also be contributing to the project. The goal of WestMOPoCo is to strengthen international cooperation in the Western Mediterranean region, in particular through: the development or update of spill management support tools (HNS response manual, REMPEC's tools MIDSIS TROCS and MedERSys...), the assessment of national contingency plans in the relevant countries and, where applicable, the establishment of improvement recommendations, the study of international cooperation mechanisms in the area and the reinforcement of synergies between countries for spill response and the organisation of various sub-regional workshops.

HNS crisis management training for EMSA

The [European Maritime Safety Agency](#) (EMSA) chose Cedre to run a crisis management training course on spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS). The course was held on 23 and 24 January at EMSA headquarters in Lisbon for 16 of the agency's staff. The course content covered a range of topics connected with managing an HNS spill. The trainees were very actively involved, in particular through specialist discussions on chemical shipping and through a tutorial based on a real-life scenario. The practical exercises, which were an opportunity for active participation, were particularly appreciated by the trainees and they emphasised their interest in the different case studies presented by Cedre.

The "Nuit des Idées" at Beauport Abbey (Côtes-d'Armor)

On 31st January, **Beauport Abbey** in Paimpol held its 4th "Nuit des Idées", devoted this year to the relationship between Mankind and Nature applied to coastal environments. This evening event was attended by around 90 people. Cedre took part in a panel session on marine litter and the circular economy, presenting the organisation's involvement in this issue through the support provided to the **French Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition** for the implementation of public policies (**MSFD** and **OSPAR** Convention) and through its research work principally conducted under 2 European **Interreg Atlantic** projects: **CleanAtlantic** and **OceanWise**. The Lorient-based company **SeaBird**, another partner in the OceanWise project, addressed the benefits of the circular economy in the reduction of marine litter and presented bio-sourced plastics they develop as substitutes for synthetic plastics, in particular in the field of fisheries and aquaculture.

New universal sorbent tested

The universal loose sorbent **PLASTISORB**, in the form of white particles and made from polymethacrylimide, was tested by Cedre's laboratory. Based on its performance, it has been added to the list of universal sorbents published by Cedre, available at www.cedre.fr

Containers lost overhead in the North Sea

On the night of 1st to 2nd January, as a storm waged, one of the world's largest containerships, the **MSC Zoe**, lost around 345 containers overboard in the German waters of the North Sea, not far from Borkum. Two of the containers were carrying potentially hazardous substances: 280 bags each containing 25 kg of organic peroxide powder, and 1,400 kg of lithium ion batteries. The Netherlands Coastguard and the German authorities took joint command of this incident. A warning was issued to ships travelling through the affected area as to the risk of colliding with containers. The cargo ship was bound for Bremerhaven in Germany. The contents of certain containers washed up on the beaches of the Wadden Islands: car parts, toys, flat-screen televisions, light bulbs, furniture and high density polyethylene, mainly used for manufacturing plastic packaging, in the form of granules. Several bags of peroxide were found north of the Dutch coastline, indicating that the container had burst open.

Shoreline clean-up operations began very quickly and were initially carried out by volunteers and the local authorities, but soon taken over by professionals. On the 9th, **MSC** announced that 1,200 tonnes of debris had been collected. A coastguard plane conducted overflights above the Wadden Islands to monitor the situation and attempt to locate the containers. From the 6th, ships equipped with sonar searched for the containers lost overboard and recovered them, assisted by other vessels, in mid-January. Some containers had been ripped open and their contents had sunk. A criminal inquiry was opened by the Dutch authorities. The shipping company **MSC** announced that they would "pay the full costs of the clean-up" and were determined to find every single container lost overboard. By early February, most of the containers had been located.

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