

N° 317 E – News from November 2022

Emergency response

November was a particularly busy month for our duty team. We were contacted by **DREAL PACA** about the behaviour and toxicity of butyldiglycol acetate, following a leak from an industrial tank into the sea at the Anse d'Auguette. The **Port of Antwerp** (Belgium) questioned us about the behaviour of a VLSFO and the recommendations on response measures following a spill from a container ship. The Finistère fire brigade (**SDIS 29**) was in contact with Cedre following a leak of hydrochloric acid which reached the wastewater network at an industrial site in Quimper, as well as in relation to strandings of industrial plastic pellets on the South Finistère coast. The Côtes-d'Armor fire brigade (**SDIS 22**) also contacted Cedre to discuss the different clean-up techniques which could be implemented to respond to a spill of domestic fuel oil in vegetated ditches. A participant in an exercise organised as part of the RCH4 chemical risk training course questioned Cedre about the impact of water used to extinguish an ammonium nitrate fire on the marine environment. MAR-ICE was activated by a Scandinavian country after a solid substance rose to the surface and ignited with air; the substance turned out to be white phosphorus. Requests for analysis of photographs of suspected pollution were received from COM Toulon, **MRCC Corsica** and **MRCC Corsen**. The discovery of an oil patty in the Bay of Douarnenez was reported by **VIGIPOL**. A sample of the oil, found by an individual, will be sent to Cedre for analysis. We are also expecting a delivery of samples of oil found in bags on the Finistère coastline. In terms of exercises, the ICE network was activated 4 times (by England for formaldehyde, Belgium for benzene, the Netherlands for chlorine and Poland for ethanol). MAR-ICE was also activated by Malta.

56th session of the Cedre Strategy Committee

The 56th session of the Cedre Strategy Committee was held on 25 November on our premises. The primary objective of this meeting was to define the priorities for the coming years in terms of response and cooperation, knowledge development, response preparedness, documentation and support for public policies in the field of aquatic litter. The morning was devoted to selecting projects to be included in our 2023 technical programme. More than thirty proposals for new projects or the continuation of existing projects were discussed with our partners, to define which of them will be conducted in 2023 alongside the thirty plus ongoing actions conducted as part of our public service mission. In the afternoon, the results of the medium-term strategic study were presented. This study was conducted in two stages: first an online survey was sent out to our partners, then interviews were conducted with a selection of foreign partners. Through this study, several opportunities for future work were identified and discussed with the members of the Strategy Committee. The conclusions will help to guide strategic choices for the coming years.

Cedre Technical Day

As every year, the **Cedre Technical Day** was held the day before the Strategy Committee meeting. This year, two themes were discussed: the development of a field measurement and sampling kit, and the new pollutants which Cedre and its partners are now having to deal with. The field kit concept, which has just received financial support from **TotalEnergies** via **CITEPH**, was presented by TotalEnergies, **ENSTA Bretagne** and Cedre. The aim of this project is to develop a connected field kit capable of rapidly transmitting measurements taken in the field to an incident management unit and that will provide guidance for field operators taking samples. The theme of new pollutants was then discussed following presentations by Cedre on new ship propulsion energies, by **INERIS** on lithium-ion batteries, by **YARA** on ammonia, and finally by **OFB/PNMI** and Cedre on plastic litter and associated contaminants. The discussions helped to pinpoint needs and expectations that could be addressed through future projects by Cedre and its partners. Cedre would like to thank all the speakers who took part in this day.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ 12 December: Director of Cerema to visit Cedre
- ▶ 12 to 16 December: Cedre to attend **Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) meeting** at IMO in London

Training

- ▶ **2023 training calendar** now out!
- ▶ 14 to 16 December: IMO 3 online training course for OCA Taiwan

Hot off the press

- ▶ See the latest *Information Bulletin n°43*, with a feature on the 20th anniversary of the *Prestige* spill. Available in **French, English** and **Spanish**
- ▶ New video: *Prestige, 20 years on*. Available in **French, English** and **Spanish**

IBNB technical days

As part of its partnership with the Finistère fire brigade (SDIS 29), Cedre provided its premises from 8 to 10 November to host a conference on "Interventions on board ships and boats". During this three-day event, speakers shared their work and experience relating to fires on board vessels. Cedre took a particular interest in the discussions on the consequences of such incidents in terms of water pollution, and presented its expertise, experimentation and training capacities to the participants.

Presentation of work conducted with French Navy support

On 21 November, Cedre presented CEPOL with the results of the research and experimentation projects conducted in 2022 with financial or material support from the French Navy. Discussions focused in particular on the trials conducted in French Guiana, in Brest's roadstead and in the Atlantic with the support of CEPOL and the naval bases of Degrad des Cannes and Brest. This year's work conducted as part of the ongoing chemical study programme was also presented. The discussions concluded with collaboration prospects for next year, in particular a new at-sea trial.

Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) organised the first coordination meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031 for Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships at its new premises in Floriana. This strategy sets out 7 Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs), the first of which aims to "Prevent, prepare for and respond to operational, illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships". It is primarily in relation to this objective that Cedre was involved in the discussions which aimed to outline the possible synergies and opportunities for cooperation between countries and between international, regional and national institutions, technical partners and programmes in place, in order to help to achieve the 10-year targets. [See here for further information.](#)

Departure of REMPEC Head of Office

After 16 years with REMPEC, Mr Gabino Gonzalez has just been appointed Deputy Coordinator of the [Mediterranean Action Plan](#) (United Nations Environment Programme - Barcelona Convention Secretariat). Cedre regularly worked together with Gabino during his time at REMPEC, both in emergency situations, as a member of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, and for longer-term projects such as European projects, regional training actions, exercises and the production of guides with the shared objective of improving the level of preparedness of Mediterranean countries. Cedre would like to thank Gabino for this long-running, constructive cooperation and wishes him every success in his new role.

In-house response training

On 8 November, all of Cedre's employees attended the last of three days of in-house training on "Response preparedness". The morning was devoted to onshore spill response strategies and techniques and the internal organisation in the event of a major spill. In the afternoon, various practical group exercises were organised: surveying polluted sites, recovery on the water, sorbents workshop, manual and mechanical collection with a beach cleaner, clean-up of riprap and pebbles (flushing and pressure washing). This training course offered valuable insight, discussions and feedback, enabling our teams to upgrade their skills!

Multilayer testing

The measurement of different levels of oil, emulsion and water in oil industry production systems is necessary, yet difficult to implement precisely and accurately. Different equipment and technologies are used for these measurements and four probes were tested in 2020 in Cedre's experimental column. As a result of these tests, one of the suppliers improved its probe, which was a prototype at the time, and requested further tests. This second round of tests was performed between October and November 2022.

Saudi International Maritime Forum 2022

The Saudi International Maritime Forum was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from 15 to 17 November. The event was organised by the Royal Saudi Naval Forces. Cedre took part in this forum to present the environmental consequences of targeted attacks on onshore and offshore oil facilities. We also took part in a round table discussion on this subject with professionals and academics specialising in the field.

Clean Gulf 2022

Cedre attended Clean Gulf 2022 from 8 to 10 November in New Orleans (Louisiana, United States). This event included a series of conferences related to current events in Cedre's field of activity. It also included an exhibition featuring spill detection, response and waste treatment equipment. In addition to networking and keeping up to speed with the latest technologies, Cedre was also involved in a round table discussion on research and development alongside other international researchers.

9th biennial GI WACAF Regional Conference

The Regional 9th biennial Conference of the [Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa](#) on oil spill prevention

and response was held in Accra (Ghana) from 7 to 10 November. Supported and organised by [IMO](#) and [IPIECA](#), this biennial conference was the opportunity for the State and oil industry representatives of 21 of the 22 countries in the region covered by the GI WAGAF initiative to review the activities carried out since 2020 and to update their “country profiles”, as well as to put forward actions to be implemented, at national or regional level, over the next two years. Cedre was involved in organising this conference, alongside other experts such as the [IOPC Funds](#) and [ITOPF](#), and gave presentations, led working groups and organised a half-day practical workshop on oil behaviour, sampling and analysis methods and the dispersion strategy.

CleanAtlantic project coordination meeting

On 2nd and 3rd November, Cedre was in Madiera, Portugal, for the [CleanAtlantic](#) project coordination meeting. This project, launched in 2017, co-financed by the [Interreg Atlantic](#) programme, led by [CETMAR](#) (*Centro Tecnológico del Mar*, Spain) and involving 19 partners, aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic area (Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal) by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent and remove marine litter. The project has been awarded a budget extension and is pursuing its actions until June 2023. This two-day meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the different tasks being carried out by the partners, and to present the actions undertaken by Cedre, in particular in relation to the progress of three surveys on beach litter and the associated clean-up techniques, floating litter in ports, and the inventory of marine litter response initiatives, respectively.

International workshop on marine litter sources

From 14 to 18 November, Cedre was in Denmark to take part in an international workshop organised by [Aarhus University](#). The objective of this workshop was to develop a better understanding of the potential sources and origins of litter found on the shoreline, based on an in-depth characterisation of beach litter. The workshop was attended by 22 participants from different European countries and different stakeholders: experts, professionals from different sectors, municipal officials and associations. It was an opportunity for Cedre to expand its knowledge of marine litter sources and assessment methodologies.

OceanWise project wrap-up conference

On 29 November, Cedre attended the final conference of the European [OceanWise](#) project in Lisbon. This project, launched in 2018, aimed to propose measures to reduce expanded and extruded polystyrene in the marine environment. This conference was the chance to review the knowledge gained and recommendations developed during the project. Cedre presented its assessment of the pollution of Europe's Atlantic coastline by expanded and extruded polystyrene, as well as the results of the experimental study into the impacts on the marine environment of these polystyrenes and certain biosourced plastic alternatives. All the recommendations and deliverables developed in the framework of the project will be available in the coming days on the [project website](#).

We need you! Online survey on marine litter response initiatives, measures and actions

As part of the European [CleanAtlantic](#) project, a survey is underway to identify marine litter reduction initiatives, measures and actions. The aim of this survey, which is being rolled out across the five Atlantic Area countries, namely Ireland, the United Kingdom, France, Spain and Portugal, is to inventory the main past and present initiatives, measures and actions. This is your opportunity to share your marine litter experience. [Take the survey here](#).

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