

OPENING SPEECH

International Workshop on Marine Oil Pollution Control

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Harilaos N. Psaraftis

Professor, NTUA

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Harilaos Psaraftis. I would like to welcome you to the International Workshop on Marine Oil Pollution Control. The workshop is organized by the Laboratory for Maritime Transport of the National Technical University of Athens, School of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

The purpose of the workshop is twofold: Number one, to give a flavor of research being conducted on the topic of marine pollution control. Three European Commission research projects will be presented, EU-MOP, OSH and POP&C, each dealing with a specific aspect of the problem. In the folder that you have, you will find some material about these projects- much more will be presented during the course of the day.

The second purpose of the workshop is the interaction between R&D and the industry. Clearly, there is no purpose of conducting R&D without input from the potential users of this research. Of course, there are many ways of receiving such input within these projects, which already have industrial participation, but one of these ways is by organizing events like this, where we assemble various stakeholders and have a discussion on the ideas that are presented but also on the current developments and issues.

To that end, today we have invited experts from the IMO, EMSA, HELMEPA, the Hellenic Coast Guard and the industry, to share with us some insights on this area and participate in the discussion.

We also have invited some students, mainly from NTUA, to get a better feeling of this topic and meet the experts. Linking R&D and education is always a top goal for us, as what is an R&D topic today will be in the classroom tomorrow.

I don't need to talk much about why the topic is important. IMO's slogan is "safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans". Tanker accidents like *Prestige* force us to think, what measures should be taken to reduce the risk of oil pollution. Reducing the risk means two things. One, reducing both the probability of oil pollution (and this is pollution prevention) and two, mitigating its potential consequences (and this is pollution response). What R&D does is to provide the necessary analysis and validation for the justification of whatever measures will be taken. You will have an opportunity to see this today.

Before I give the floor to our invited guests, I want to express my appreciation to the following:

First, all of you for coming here this morning. It is Posidonia week, and I realize things are difficult, with all these events taking place.

Second, all the speakers and panelists who have agreed to participate in the event and share with us their wisdom on this topic.

All of us want to thank the European Commission, Directorate General Research, for supporting these projects, and many other R&D projects in the maritime area, and providing partial funding for this event.

I also want to thank the organizations here in Greece, which have put this event under their auspices:

- The Hellenic Chamber of Shipping.
- HELMEPA, the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association.
- The Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Greek Section.

I want to thank our co-sponsors, who have contributed to the cost of this event. These are one tanker company and 3 classification societies

- Avin International
- Bureau Veritas
- Det Norske Veritas
- Germanischer Lloyd

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Eugenides Foundation for helping us hosting this event here.

Thank you all very much.