

== MARTOB/SEAM Final Workshop, 26/03/2004 ==

1. As you know, both MARTOB and SEAM projects are co-funded by the Directorate General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission under the 5th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.
2. What I expect from today is a “Summary of conclusions and recommendations of the conference” (of maximum two pages). This output should reflect clearly the conclusions legitimated by the scientific technical work performed in the three domains addressed partly or fully by SEAM and MARTOB: ballast water treatment, air pollution from ships and antifouling paints. We do think in the Commission services that the two Consortia have very well performed and that concrete exploitable results have been achieved.
3. I am particularly interested also in having some clues today on prospects for further EU research on ballast water and ship emissions.
4. As for Ballast Water, we trust that taking account of the provisions of the Convention resulting from the February 2004 Diplomatic Conference on Ballast Water Management and having regard the commitment to review the standards for ballast water management in the near future, research should focus on the identification of undisputable scientific evidence for the determination of the final standards and to stimulate the development of the most suitable technology for ballast water treatment to respond to the performance criteria laid down in the Convention. Further research should take due account of results achieved under the MARTOB and SEAM projects and of other projects identified within the IMO GloBallast programme. It is worth stressing that the introduction of alien species in the

marine environment has been recognised by the United Nations as one of the 4 major threats to the oceans.

5. The work on Sulphur fuels follows up to the Commission's Ship emissions strategy and marine fuel sulphur proposal published in 2002 (COM(2002)595), whereas the work carried by SEAM on anti fouling paints has been done with respect to the 2001 AFS Convention (International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships). Representatives from DG ENV will update you during the course of this conference on the latest developments on EU related policies and initiatives.
6. Let me, to conclude, hope that the proceedings of your talks will not only allow for a better understanding of the state of the art but also allow for synergies to take place between all of you, as a step towards a European Research Area. We are looking forward to reading your clear recommendations that will be put to the shipping community, the related international organisations, the European Commission and indeed our Member States.
7. Thank you very much for your attention.
