

SHARING EXPERIENCES ON BOAT'S END OF LIFE TREATMENT European Maritime Days in Gijon (Spain), 21 May 2010



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On Friday 21 May 2010 at the occasion of the European Maritime Days which were celebrated in Gijon (Spain) from 18 to 21 May, our Spanish member ANEN organised a workshop aiming at sharing experiences from various European countries in the field of boat's end-of-life treatment. Thomas Anmarkrud from NORBOAT (Norwegian boating industry), Pierre Barbleu from recently established APER (French organism in charge of boat's end-of-life treatment) and Stefano Pagani from UCINA (Italian boating industry) presented the various activities and projects launched by the boating industry in Norway, France and Italy.

Boat's end-of-life treatment is ranking high on the work agenda of *European Boating Industry* and several of its members, namely ANEN (Spain), FIN (France), FINNBOAT (Finland), NORBOAT (Norway) and UCINA (Italy) are active at national level on this field. The conclusions of this workshop will also form the basis for developing a *European Boating Industry* approach to the numerous challenges posed by the boat's end-of-life treatment.

A number of strategic issues were outlined during the workshop and will require further discussion among industry players, such as:

- ★ The continuous involvement of industry players from the boating and waste treatment sectors was found key to developing operational strategies. The opportunity of extending the discussion to other sectors facing similar challenges, e.g. caravan and windmill manufacturers, may be considered in the future.
- ★ Another critical area is to maintain a good level of information and discussion among members to continue sharing the various results and problems met while avoiding duplication of efforts wherever possible. At the same time, each country will have to meet a number of national specificities to efficiently operate in this area.
- ★ Though the technology for boat's treatment is well known and used today, further investigation and R&D efforts are needed to find sustainable alternatives to the energy recovery and landfill routes used today for composites. Speakers presented some promising opportunities for recycling and reuse of fibres and resins as raw materials for new products.
- ★ Looking at the future, all speakers agreed that integrating elements of eco-design together with the development of alternative materials with better recyclable properties are necessary to minimize waste in the future. Special attention to "design for disassembling" will have to be introduced at the design stage of craft.
- ★ Finally, the whole issue of financing the boat's end-of-life treatment will be instrumental in developing sustainable schemes. This issue will need to be carefully discussed and reviewed, and could be the topic for a follow-up workshop organised by *European Boating Industry*.



Finally, three EU-funded projects currently working on this topic were presented:

- ★ BOATCYCLE which analyses the optimal deconstruction process for 3 types of craft and 4 waste streams while considering life-cycle approach and eco-design,
- ★ EURECOMP which looks at recycling thermoset composites by solvolysis using water, and
- ★ RECYSHIP which works on the decontamination, deconstruction and waste treatment of both ships and recreational craft at international and EU level.

All three projects were launched last year and more results are expected by the end of this year.

All presentations from the workshop are available to our members for download on our website www.europeanboatingindustry.eu

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