

PRESS RELEASE

17 October  
2008Co-operation in the field of  
marine pollution  
involving chemicals

## Agreement between EMSA, Cedre and Cefic signed today

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***Today, 17 October 2008, at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) headquarters in Lisbon, Willem de Ruyter, EMSA Executive Director, Joachim Krüger, Executive Director of the Energy, HSE and Logistics Programme of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and Pierre Maille, Chairman of the Board of the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre), signed an agreement between the three organisations establishing the "MAR-ICE Network," thus creating a framework for closer co-operation in the field of chemical marine pollution response.***

Mr de Ruyter thanked *Cedre* and Cefic for their co-operation on this important topic and added that *"with the Cedre experience and the involvement of the chemical industry, I expect progress in this particularly sensitive area."* Mr Krüger added: *"This is another example of how the European chemical industry puts Responsible Care into practice"*. Mr Maille warmly thanked EMSA and Cefic for their continuing confidence in the experience of *Cedre*, based in Brest, to make information of paramount importance on harmful and noxious substances available to all EU member states through this agreement.

The signature of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) covers the framework for co-operation between the three organisations in establishing a network of chemical experts called "Marine ICE" or "MAR-ICE network," which aims to strengthen information transfer on chemical substances involved in marine pollution emergencies in EU waters.

The purpose of this network is to provide, upon request, the Member States of the European Union and the coastal states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) with remote *product specific* information on chemicals involved in marine pollution, by contacting experts in chemical companies who are familiar with the substance(s) involved.

This new service is based on the voluntary ICE (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) emergency response network, which provides similar assistance to national Authorities in land based chemical spills during transport. This network is available 24/7 and has been operated by Cefic since 1992. With this agreement, the three organisations aim to apply the ICE experience to the development and implementation of a similar EU-wide service for marine incidents involving chemical releases.

The service will be accessible to requesting parties via a single interface to be provided by *Cedre*, whose key mission is to offer an around the clock national advisory service which provides those in charge of pollution response with information on the pollutants, their behaviour, the related risks and the best response methods and techniques.

The establishment of this network is part of EMSA's implementation of its "Action Plan on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Pollution Preparedness and Response," which was adopted in June 2007 and defines the Agency's pollution response tasks as stipulated in Regulation (EC) N° 1406/2002/EC.

For further information and media enquiries, please contact:

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**Caption:**

**From left to right, Joachim Krüger, Executive Director at Cefic, Pierre Maille, Chairman of the Board of the Cedre and Willem de Ruiter, EMSA Executive Director.**