



EDITORIAL

It was a great honour to be elected as Chair of the Marine Board-ESF in Bergen in May this year. I am looking forward to the duties ahead. The Marine Board plays an important role in shaping future European marine science and technology agenda.

In the Marine Board, we want to strengthen further our cooperation with scientists, organisations, the EU Commission and authorities in the various aspects of marine science and technology. The Board and the Secretariat are looking forward to maximising these opportunities. Some points to that effect:

Like other sectors, the marine and maritime sectors have to fight for attention and to raise awareness amongst the decision makers and the public. Nothing comes about on its own. It is an obligation for the Marine Board to advocate the necessary role and contribution of marine science and technology in Europe. We need to support the development of the very best science, and at the same time link it to the societal and economic development of Europe, thus supporting the goals of the Lisbon Agenda. We are certain that the marine and maritime sector is widely underestimated in that respect, with an untapped potential for development.

It has been interesting to witness the evolution of the 7th Frame Work Programme (FP7). As it looks now, marine issues are more secured than when compared to the FP6. Marine issues are mostly found in the Food and Environment Themes, but important marine and marine related issues are found, or rather should be found, in the other Themes as well. Since marine issues are not addressed via a dedicated Theme, it is necessary to ensure that all Themes pay proper attention to marine issues as a cross-cutting activity, as is intentionally stated in the FP7 programme.

The EU Commission issued its Green Paper on a Future European Maritime Policy in June 2006. The consultation period ends June 30, 2007. The Marine Board considers a European Maritime Policy as extremely important for Europe in order to tie together various issues in a coherent manner. Europe currently lacks such a policy. The Marine Board is preparing a response to the Green Paper, and in doing so is cooperating with other marine science organisations.

Finally I proudly welcome the publication of *Navigating the Future III* which we consider to be a major contribution in charting our route through the challenging times ahead.

Lars Horn
Marine Board Chair as of June 2006.

WELCOME

On behalf of the team at the Secretariat, I am delighted to welcome the opportunity to work with Lars Horn (Director of Department for Marine Environment and Resources, Research Council of Norway). With his background in engineering and offshore industrial technology, national marine programme development, and his particular experience in foresight initiatives, we are aware that Lars will have a very focussed and pragmatic approach to delivering the Marine Board's output for the betterment of marine research in Europe. Lars is well complemented by the profiles of the newly configured Executive Committee including existing Vice Chair Jan de Leeuw, and newly elected Vice Chairs Kaisa Kononen, Jan Mees and Kostas Nittis.

Of course, in welcoming the opportunity to work with Lars, we would also like to express our thanks to Jean-Francois Minster, who was our Chairman for the period 2002-mid 2006. Jean-Francois, with the then Executive Committee Vice Chairs: Jan de Leeuw, Phil Newton, Geoffrey O'Sullivan and Mario Ruivo, was largely responsible for increasing the profile and bringing forward the activities of the Board during this period. In wishing Jean-Francois every success in his new responsibility as Total Senior Vice President, we would also like to thank him for his support to the Secretariat, and hope that we will continue to have opportunities to interact with him.

Lars is taking on the responsibility for the Marine Board at a time when the expectations for the role of, and output from, the Marine Board are increasing. I am sure that Lars has many ideas to maximise Marine Board's work in supporting marine research in Europe, and in securing the role of marine research in informing the development of sound policies. The team at the Secretariat looks forward to working with Lars on this.

Niamh Connolly – Executive Scientific Secretary

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www.esf.org/marineboard

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

Navigating the Future III

Marine Board Position Paper 8 (Nov 2006)

Navigating the Future III informed by the research community documents the most important thematic research priorities for Europe, taking into account the priorities not only of FP7 and the pending European Maritime Policy, but also the objectives of national research programmes, the European Marine Environment Strategy and the Galway Declaration 2004. In presenting these thematic research priorities in a format accessible to inter-disciplinary research initiatives, policymakers and industry, *Navigating the Future III* aims to facilitate an integrated underpinning of existing European policies in fisheries, sustainable development and management of coastal and oceanic regions.

Jean-François Minster, MB-ESF outgoing Chair (2002-2006), hopes that *"Navigating the Future III will be considered as a crucial contribution towards strengthening existing, and encouraging further development of, coordination, cooperation and networks, and fostering openness towards a more integrated approach to marine research in Europe"*.



Marine Board Position Papers series

MarinERA, AMPERA: Towards Joint Calls in 2007



MarinERA FP6 ERA-NET –
Coordination of National and Regional Marine RTD Activities in Europe

2006 has seen the activation of all MarinERA Work Packages, resulting in concrete outputs regarding retrospective clustering of projects and fast tracking the development of common initiatives.

Thus, following the 4th MarinERA Technical Committee meeting (Spain, 5-6 October 2006), MarinERA partners identified two potential research themes for which they could commit to joint programmes based on a possible call in late 2007, with probable funding in 2008. The identified themes were:

- Regional Drivers to Ecosystem Change;
- RAPID II – Thermohaline Circulation in North Atlantic.



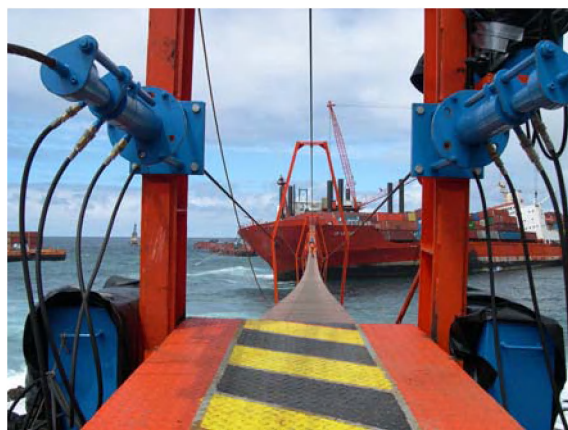
AMPERA FP6 ERA-NET –
Concerted Action to Foster Prevention and Best Response to Accidental Marine Pollution

The modality of a joint call and evaluation, but national funding, has been agreed by the AMPERA consortium. The following step will be the formulation of the research themes for a Pilot Call of projects in April 2007.

For further information, see:
<http://www.marinera.net>
<http://www.ampera-net.info>

"Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union" – Marine Board perspective

On 7 June 2006, the European Commission adopted a Green Paper on a Future Maritime Policy for the European Union. The consultation process will last from 7th June 2006 until 30th June 2007. The Marine Board has established a working group to develop its formal response. The Marine Board will also contribute to the proposed integrated position being developed by several European marine-related structures (including EFARO, EuroOcean, EuroGOOS, ICES, Marine Board, Ifremer, KDM, Marine Institute and NOCS).



Salvage operation of the CP Valor

Marine Board Representatives

The Marine Board Autumn 06 plenary meeting was kindly hosted by Prof. Gerold Wefer at the MARUM center in Bremen (Germany). The Board had a very fruitful meeting, which included observers from DG Research and DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the European Commission, invited speakers from European organisations.

Prof. Gerold Wefer informed the Board he was to step down as Marine Board representative. Prof. Gerold Wefer had been a member of the Board since its creation and he had also served as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. The Marine Board Chairman, Executive Committee and Secretariat addressed a sincere thanks to Prof. Gerold Wefer for his work and commitment. A new representative for the German Research Society (DFG) will be soon appointed to continue on with this fruitful collaboration.



Prof. Gerold Wefer's farewell – November 2006, Bremen

The Marine Board Autumn 06 Plenary also gave the opportunity to welcome new representatives while thanking outgoing representatives:

- Dr. Nicole Papineau replaces Dr. Jean-François Minster as the representative from the Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, France)
- Dr. Sevcen Colpan Polat Beken will replace Prof. Emel Arinç as the representative from the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK, Turkey).

Marine Board Secretariat Relocation

The Secretariat of the Marine Board - ESF is set to move from its current location in Strasbourg, France to the site of the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in Ostend, Belgium.



VLIZ building, Ostend - Belgium

The move was decided during the Board's Spring 06 Plenary meeting after a total of three possible sites for relocation had been reviewed and discussed. The potential of the facilities, potential synergies with other activities, financial considerations, as well as the best service to the role of the Marine Board were all factored into consideration. It was felt that Ostend offered the most in terms of synergistic potential, with the Flanders Marine Institute - VLIZ (a MB-ESF Member Organisation), UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the European Aquaculture Society all being located at the same site. In a parallel development, the European Fisheries and Aquaculture Research Organisations (EFARO) recently decided to relocate its secretariat in association with the secretariat of the Marine Board-ESF, and will also move to Ostend. The move is likely to take place in Spring 2007. Chairman Lars Horn said: *"The relocation of the Marine Board Secretariat to Ostend is a very significant move, not only geographically, but also as an organisational process. The Board is very grateful for the whole-hearted support we are receiving from both Strasbourg and Ostend to make the move a success. We are confident that we will do an even better job within the ESF realm at the new location."*



Panoramic view from VLIZ offices

Profile of the Marine Board Secretariat*



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* Marine Board Secretariat also provides the Scientific Secretariat for MarinERA

The Board



Marine Board representatives in Bergen – Spring 2006 Plenary

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