

PRESS RELEASE

41ST MEETING OF THE RAMOGE COMMISSION

TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2008

MONACO – STATE MINISTRY

The RAMOGE Agreement, signed in 1976 and amended in 2003, is the tool with which France, Italy and Monaco endowed themselves in order for the coastal zones of the Provence- Alps-Côte d'Azur Region, the Principality of Monaco and the Liguria Region to constitute a pilot zone of integrated management for the coastline, the prevention and the marine pollution-fighting.

The RAMOGE Commission, the Agreement's decisional organ, held its 41st meeting on Tuesday, 6th February 2008 under Italy's Presidency.

This meeting had as a first goal the making of the 2006-2007 Biennium activity report.

This biennium was imprinted by the following events:

- The celebration of the Agreement's 30th Birthday;
- The annual organization of a pollution-fighting exercise within the framework of the RAMOGEPOL Plan;
- The implementation of a collaboration between Member States on the problematic of the *Ostreopsis Ovata* seaweed;
- The realisation of a meeting in order to carry out an experience return on the hydrocarbon pollution that occurred in Lebanon in 2006.

The Commission congratulated itself on the quality of those actions and subsequently defined the Agreement's working programme for the 2008-2009 period.

The Commission has first assented to, in the field of the prevention and the fight against hydrocarbons, the strengthening of the cooperation with Spain. This reinforcement will be sealed this year by the harmonisation of the RAMOGEPOL Plan and the LION Plan and by Spain organising a real antipollution exercise in Taragon from the 10th to the 12th June.

The Commission has then validated the pursuance of the following activities:

- The implementation of a Collaboration between Member States on the problematic of the *Ostreopsis Ovata* seaweed;
- The establishment of a partnership between the magistrates of the three States in order to exchange evidence on illicit emptying of fuel tanks including, so far as possible, Spanish magistrates;
- The distribution, to a Mediterranean level, of the Guide on the preservation of *Posidonia* herbariums.

At last, the Commission has requested the organisation, within the end of the year, of a Mediterranean symposium about the promotion of the dredging of port mud. This activity, encouraged since 2005, is dominant in the framework of the Mediterranean Sea.

At the closure of this meeting, the Presidency of the Commission handed over to the Principality of Monaco for the 2008-2009 Biennium. It will be assured by Mister Van Klaveren, Chief of the Monegasque Delegation at the Commission.