

Valencia port welcomes the first simulacrum on clash of ships with dumping at sea in Spain

- **It is the first time Spain activates a simulacrum based on the collision of two ships with dumping at sea.**
-

Valencia, October 6th 2016.- A pollution control simulacrum ,with the aim of testing the effectiveness of the existing coordination mechanisms in National Response System, has been carried out by the following organisms: Coast and Sea Department of Sustainability through the Division for the Protection of the Sea, General Direction of Merchant Marine through General Security Branch, Pollution and Maritime Inspection in collaboration with Generalitat Valenciana, City of Valencia, Port Authority of Valencia and other organisms.

This exercise, which has ended with exit on Valencia port waters, is the first that has been done in Spain based on the collision of two ships with consequent sea dumping at the highest level. The overall objective has been evaluating operational cooperation between the different Administrations, Organisms, Institutions and Business involved before a case of accidental pollution in Valencian Community, in accordance with the different contingency plans established in SNR, approved by Royal Decree 1695/2012, from December 21.

In the exercise, which has been based on the collision of two ships with consequent sea dumping, "Y" ro-ro ship remained ungoverned when it was on its way to anchor in Valencia port waters and in a given time addressed multipurpose "X" ship which was already anchored. For purposes of collision, "Y" ships missed several drums with chemical products which fell into the water, and one of the ammonia containers suffered likely breakdowns, with product risk of loss. "X" ship suffered damage in several fuel tanks, beginning to lose fuel oil (IFO 380) at the rate of 25tm per hour, foreseeing that it could be spilled a total of 800tm, and this would reach beaches located in the south of the port.

The simulacrum, which has enabled all plans collected in SNR, has been coordinated by land, sea and air devices. In the case of Valencia port waters, Maritime planes subsystems have been enabled and they have launched National Maritime response plan before the pollution of the marine environment and Interior Maritime Port of Valencia Plan. Moreover, as to Coastal plans subsystem, State Protection Plan Ribera Sea against Pollution, Procedure for action against accidental

marine pollution in the Valencian Community, and Local Plan of the City of Valencia have launched.

From the Port Authority of Valencia all the available means have been deployed to attend this type of emergencies, such as, Boluda Group tugs, business Mooring Valencia port staff and boats and APV barrier, skimmer and collection tanks. These means have worked together with SASEMAR means, which have arranged SAR MEANA, Salvamar POLLUX tug as well as Helimer 203 helicopter.

Other organisms responsible in these emergency situations with these characteristics have participated in the exercise, such as, Customs Surveillance Service, Military Emergency Unit and Spanish Red Cross.

During today's afternoon, a meeting will be performed in Prefectures with all organisms and entities which are participating, to extract the corresponding conclusions to the developed exercise.