

Secretary's Report for the year 2006



Headlines

The year 2006 was characterised as a period wherein EMH made new contacts and played more and more a role as European umbrella organisation for the traditional fleet.

We had important meetings in Rostock and Setubal and were focussed to invest in the triennial EMH congress of 2007 in the framework of the European Green Paper consultation process.

A new cooperation between Baltic Sail in the north and the Portuguese Association for Maritime Heritage in the south was established.

EMH also initiated contact with Europa Nostra, the pan-European federation of heritage organisations

The year round

In April the Working Group attended the International Conference "Traditional Shipping in European Waters" in Rostock – Warnemünde.

There we enjoyed an animated conference organised by the Baltic Sail Committee under the leadership of Hanse Sail Rostock and with the consultation of EMH. This candidate for Associate membership of EMH welcomed us warmly and hospitably with an interesting conference followed by a dinner event in one of the last pine-tar distilleries and a sailing trip on board two match racing schooners.

At the end of June, the Executive Committee was invited to Dunkirk to prepare the next EMH Congress. Our host Marcel Charpentier showed us the many possibilities and we visit the Musée Portuaire and its floating collection.

The Executive Committee meeting in Wissant was fruitful in a nice ambiance.

Unfortunately the Dunkirk City Council had to cancel the preparation of the 6th EMH Congress in April 2007 because of financial difficulties of the co-host *Syndicat Mixte de la Cote d'Opale*.

In November the Working Group finally went to Portugal. Our host the new Portuguese Association for Maritime Heritage (APPM) organised an evening meeting in Setúbal together with different Portuguese organisations to show what EMH has already achieved and to discuss the situation in Portugal. Thanks to João Barbas d'Oliviera, the chairman of APPM, and his crew we had a comfortable meeting and a very attractive program closed with a splendid sailing tour on board his former salt carrying Galeoes on the river Sado.

The Safety Council did not meet this year. Most of its communication was done by email.

The Inland Waterway Council did not meet this year but the European Committee now recognises EMH as competent to write the proposed Chapter 19 of the new European regulations based on the River Rhine Rules..

The news from the Cultural Council is that the original Barcelona Charter is now displayed aboard the frigate *Jylland* at Ebeltoft, Denmark where this charter was signed in 2003. During the Working Group meeting in

Setúbal Arne Gotved handed over the chair of the Cultural Council to Per-Inge Lindqvist.

The Environmental Group discussed the coming proposal to ban pine tar. The Nordic Biocide Authorities concluded that pine tar is not a biocide. Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway have obtained national dispensations to continue using pine tar until 2010.

Excom and other members attended many meetings for EMH. They were present during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of STI in Antwerp, including a short discussion meeting. A new contact has been established between Europa Nostra and EMH to discuss areas of possible collaboration in matters such as the protection of historic harbours. EMH was present in Dublin for the yearly ENNHO conference and met our French colleagues and maritime authorities at the *Salon Nautique* in Paris in December.

This year was the consultation period, the so called Green Paper process of the Maritime Task Force. EMH was present during a conference in Turku, in connection with the Finnish Presidency of the EU. Following several meetings with our President, John Richardson, Head of Secretariat at the Maritime Task Force accepts that EMH leads its sector in terms of expertise. And EMH attended the Mare Nostrum meeting at the end of the year in Brussels.

The contact list has grown to 1600 addresses in 43 countries. The tasks for the regular and financial administration were supported also this year professionally through Marianne de Zwart.

The EMH Newsletter came out twice and was distributed to about 1225 contacts of whom 375 received the electronic version. The website was our principal communication tool. With an important list of links and events, beside official documents and all the newsletters it shows what is going on.

The contributors in 2005

Nine National members (Estonia, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands) formed the base of our work.

Fourteen Advisory members supported the EMH. The maritime museums in Dunkirk, Enkhuizen, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, Antwerp, Barcelona, Bremerhaven, Greenwich, Helsingør, Helsinki, Liverpool, London, Paris, San Sebastian, Stockholm / Karlskrona, and the *Skibsbevaringsfond* of Denmark supported our work.

There were three Associate members: Sail Training International (STI), Maritieme Site Oostende (MSO) and the Sammenslutningen af Mindre Erhvervsfartøjern (SME) of Denmark.

Thanks to all organisations and volunteers EMH is working hard to keep the traditional fleet in operation.

The Secretary
Andijk, April 2007