

# Secretary's Report for the year 2007



## Headlines

The EMH triennial congress in Rotterdam was the topic of the year 2007. This was a congress within the framework of the future European Maritime Policy, a project of the European Union with the EMH Rotterdam Declaration as a result. As part of the same EU process EMH presented its view during a subsequent Conference in Bremen hosted by the EU Presidency.

The protest against the proposal to ban pine tar had a good result: pine tar is not any longer considered as a biocide.

In Rotterdam the General Assembly elected Per Jessing as the successor of Michael vom Baur and the other ExCom members were re-elected. New membership applications were accepted from Portugal and Norway.

## The year round

The Havenmuseum in Rotterdam hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> triennial EMH congress from 16-18 April. The (old) harbour was an impressive setting for the congress. The prelude was a harbour tour and the start of the 'Race of the Classics'. The participants enjoyed it very much and the sunny weather contributed to a real warming-up of the congress. After a reception in the evening, hosted by the Havenmuseum the congress opened. Nearly 80 participants from 15 countries exchanged knowledge and got acquainted with each other. John Richardson, head of the EU Maritime Task Force was the keynote speaker. The traditional dinner closed the first congress day. On the second day 25 contributions were given and at the end a declaration – the Rotterdam Declaration – was discussed and accepted.

The General Assembly elected Per Jessing (Sweden) as the successor to Michael vom Baur as president. Hendrik Boland (Vice-President and Treasurer), Thedo Fruithof (Secretary) and John Robinson (Minutes Secretary) were re-elected for three years.

Thanks to the staff and members of the Havenmuseum and the support of many sponsors the sixth EMH congress was a great success.

Members of the ExCom attended the European Conference : 'A European Vision for the Oceans and Seas' in Bremen 2 to 4 May. Anders Berg, EMH Hon. President delivered a well-received EMH presentation based on Ole Vistrup's text for the European Commission's Green Book.

In May also the final response for the Green Book was presented to the Maritime Task Force.

In May the ExCom attended the publication of the Riga Charter launched by Fedecrail in Brussels and EMH attended a meeting of Fedecrail in Helsingør.

In Antwerp the ESPO symposium was attended.

ExCom gave a presentation in Seixal (Portugal) during the conference organized by the local Ecomuseum that celebrated the museum's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In Ferrol (Galicia, Spain) EMH was present at a congress during the maritime festival of the Galician Federation of traditional boats (FGCMF).

A presentation was given in Vigo during a conference in the framework of the Green Book process and during a symposium on replicas in Torgelow the Chairman of the Cultural Council was active.

A paper about EMH was delivered in Santander during a symposium on port/city relations and EMH was represented at the biennial ICMM congress in Malta in October. Six months after the EMH congress the proceedings of the Rotterdam Congress were published and offered to Nathalie Hesketh through Per Jessing as opening of the Classic Boat Show in Enkhuizen (Netherlands). A special thank for Wim de Bruijn for his effort to be on time with this publication.

The Executive Committee met twice, in Admannshagen and Helsinki. In October, Finland's national umbrella organisation, the Skutföreningen Kustkultur hosted the EMH Working Group on the island of Soumenlinna in Helsinki, where an attractive program was set up. A walking tour of the Island and a boat trip through the archipelago interspersed very fruitful meetings of the Working Group and Councils.

The Safety Council met once meeting in Helsinki, where Jaap Baalbergen (Netherlands) took over the chair from Jan Fock, who had led this important Council since its inception. Thanks to his energy and knowledge EMH achieved so many successes and an important Memorandum of Understanding for traditional ships in European waters.

The Cultural Council met in Rotterdam and Helsinki. Per-Inge Lindqvist (Sweden) took over the helm from Arne Gotved (Denmark), who had previously conceived the idea of a charter and launched it in Barcelona. This so called Barcelona Charter is a charter for the conservation and restoration of traditional ships in operation and is more and more accepted as a practical guideline for ship owners and institutions. The Cultural Council started up a project for an inventory of traditional ships in Europe.

The Inland Waterway Council, chaired by Dörte Münstermann has tried to recruit more national representatives to this Council, but only Germany and the Netherlands have responded so far. Germany has taken a lead in drafting a response to the Joint Working Group and the Netherlands has been invited to give a response.

An application for Associate membership was received from Associacao Portuguesa do Patrimonio Maritimo in Portugal. Advisory membership was sought by the Ecomuseu Municipal do Seixal in Portugal and the Ship Preservation Centres at Bredasholmen, Norheimsund and Gratangen in Norway.

EMH was accepted into membership of Europa Nostra.

The EMH Newsletter came out twice and was distributed by post and by email. The EMH website is still a tool to communicate. No big changes were made. The contact list grew to 1700 addresses in 45 countries. Marianne de Zwart assisted in many office tasks, including financial administration.

### **The contributors in 2007**

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

Eighteen Advisory members supported EMH. The maritime museums in Dunkirk, Enkhuizen, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, Antwerp, Barcelona, Bremerhaven, Greenwich, Helsingør, Helsinki, Liverpool, London, Paris, San Sebastian, Seixal, Stockholm / Karlskrona, and the Skibsbevaringsfond of Denmark supported our work and three Ship Preservation Centres in Norway from: Bredasholmen, Norheimsund and Gratangen.

There were five Associate members: Sail Training International (STI), Maritieme Site Oostende (MSO) and the Sømmenslutningen af Mindre Erhvervsfartøjerne (SME) of Denmark, Estonian Association of Historical Ships, Baltic Sail/Hanse Sail Rostock and the Portuguese Association for Maritime Heritage (APMM).

We continue to work together with our founders, volunteers and other interested people to keep Europe's traditional fleet in operation.

The Secretary  
Andijk, May 2008