



**ICMA Mediterranean & Middle East,  
CIS & Black Sea Regions' Conference  
Malaga November 24-26, 2008**

**REFOCUSING AND REFLECTING ON RELATIONSHIPS IN THE MARITIME  
WORLD**

**Report of the proceedings of the conference**

The conference was held at Casa de Espiritualidad, Camino de los Almendrales nº 2-4, 29013 – Malaga, and was kindly hosted by AOS Malaga, to whom we were very grateful for a most successfully managed and organised conference.

**Business of the Conference**

The conference was opened in prayer, led by coordinators Fr. Stephen Miller and Fr. Edward Pracz. An introductory homily was given by Rev'd. Hennie La Grange (ICMA General Secretary), followed by a reception hosted by The Port of Malaga.

Presentations were received by the following individuals, and the following matters were discussed:

1. Mr. Ken Cornforth (MTS London): who addressed communications for seafarers on board ship and at seafarer's centres, the conference was presented with new and possible future ways in which crews make contact with home whilst at sea. The conference addressed the issues of new technology and the investment that some shipping companies are making to keep their crews better in contact with families at home, however, these are not without cost both to the company and the seafarers.
2. Fr. Stephen Miller (MTS Dubai) introduced a presentation from Mr. Doug Stevenson (SRC New York) who sadly could not be with us, on an



**ICMA Mediterranean & Middle East,  
CIS & Black Sea Regions' Conference  
Malaga November 24-26, 2008**

update and current position of MLC 2006, all conference delegates were encouraged to make themselves familiar with this new convention, which will be a most useful tool in the future for the rights of seafarers, which is hoped to be ratified by 2010. Copies can be downloaded from the ILO website [www.ilo.org](http://www.ilo.org) .

3. Prof. Erol Khavecı (London Metropolitan University) presented the conference with his findings from research done whilst at SIRC, entitled 'Port Based Welfare for Seafarers', the findings of the report posed questions as to how we as chaplains can better meet the needs of seafarers when in port and how valued the services we provide are to seafarers who took part in the questionnaire. Professor Khavecı's presentation took the form of first presenting the facts of the report and then in the second half we split into groups to discuss how we might best address the issues raised. The need for more ship visiting and better coverage on each ship was realised, and ways in which ministries need to be adaptive was thought to be crucial so we can best serve seafarers. Areas isolated for work are as follows:

- Often a problem that seafarers do not know how to get to the centres, the need to have clearly printed maps with pictures of how to get to the centre would be useful, pictures are better than too many words.
- Access to private terminals is a problem in the region, however ISPS code if used properly does allow access, better links are needed with port authorities and welfare committees to gain better access for chaplains and volunteer visitors
- Seafarers centres are still needed and provide an invaluable place for encounters to take place, however, in former CIS and some Black Sea centres the very basics of heating let alone



## **ICMA Mediterranean & Middle East, CIS & Black Sea Regions' Conference Malaga November 24-26, 2008**

communications can be difficult. Visits to ships need to be better prepared so that more seafarers are encountered not just the cook!

4. ICMA Regional make-up; the conference decided after much thought and discussion that it much preferred and encouraged the present geographical delineation of the region. From now this should be called Black Sea (including Azov Sea), Mediterranean and Middle East. Suggested we can call the region "BAMM".
5. Following dinner on the first full day of the conference there was an opportunity for members of the region to talk about their ministry and issues arising from their ports. Reports were received from Malaga, Barcelona, Marseille, AOS Italy, Odessa and Black Sea Ports, Constanta, Varna and Dubai.
6. Mr. Roy Paul presented the work of both the ITF and also the work of the ITF Trust. He looked at the developments of the Trust and how it supported seafarer's welfare, and also he was joined by Tatiana Tarasik from Odessa who explained about the process of twinning centres, and the feedback from those who had taken part. The conference was invited to look at the report researched by Professor Khavecı, as no doubt funds from the Trust might be influenced by its findings.
7. At the end of the conference the ICMA Region BAMM elected Ricard Rodriguez-Martos Dauer (AOS Barcelona) as its new regional coordinator until the next conference, this will probably take place in 2011 supposing a World Conference in 2010. There was a suggestion that the next conference should be in the Black Sea area and the



**ICMA Mediterranean & Middle East,  
CIS & Black Sea Regions' Conference  
Malaga November 24-26, 2008**

possibility of Odessa should be researched, also that the future coordinator might be encouraged from that area.

8. The conference concluded with a walking trip around Malaga, and a meal in the city where thanks were expressed to all who had spent much time in organising the two day conference and especially to Juan A. Zurita and his team of AOS Malaga.

Rev'd. Stephen Miller  
Outgoing Regional Coordinator  
ICMA BMM Region  
Dubai 17/12/2008