

# **THESSALONIKI PORT AUTHORITY S.A.**

## **Environmental Policy**

Various forms of commercial activities take place in the Port of Thessaloniki: a wide range of cargo passes through the port including crude oil, LNG, chemicals, soya, timber, coal, cement and sulphur, amongst others. The port is also involved in dry and liquid bulks handling, petro-chemical processing and ferry traffic; as a result of all these, major environmental issues arise, such as the quality of air and port-area water.

Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. acknowledges the significance of environmental issues related to air, soil and water quality as well as resource consumption and endeavours to achieve long-term sustainable development by minimising air, land and water emissions in all its operations.

Furthermore, the operations associated with container handling, conventional cargo handling, services to coastal shipping and to cruise ships all represent potential hazards especially in terms of noise, waste and spillage (particularly bunkering and vehicle servicing).

The Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. is also aware of the environmental issues concerning the construction phase of the quay extension. The issues of sediment disposal and water quality are actively being addressed.

### **BROAD DECLARATION OF PORT AUTHORITY'S GENERAL APPROACH TO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Sustainability and environmental protection are recognized as being amongst the most important and complex concepts of our time, especially concerning maritime transportation and related port activities. Integration of environmental imperatives into the everyday organization of the port's activities is a high priority of the strategy of the Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. (Th.P.A. S.A.). This approach is emerging as the core of our efforts both to build a vision of sustainability and to accelerate our progress towards that objective. The Th.P.A. S.A. recognizes that the challenge is to demonstrate how this ambition is being translated into practical reality.

### **INDICATION OF PRIORITIES OF ACTION**

Th.P.A. S.A. acknowledges that in order to be successful, the port must carry out its activities in such a manner that its commercial operations are seen as integral components of the social and economic resources of the national, regional and local communities. In operating as a successful port business, the Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. is committed to ensuring that its activities are conducted in an ecologically sustainable manner with a high standard of environmental performance. This will be achieved whilst ensuring that the needs of the community and the values attached to natural resources are taken into account in corporate planning and the way in which business is conducted.

To achieve environmental performance consistent with this policy, the Thessaloniki Port Authority S.A. will employ the following principles:

\* *Environmental improvement*

Integration of environmental considerations of sustainable development into the port's planning and decision-making processes.

\* *Environmental management system*

Implementation of appropriate EMS procedures so that the functional organization of the port's activities, products and services result in continuous improvement of the port's environment.

\* *Legal compliance*

Establishment of organization and procedures necessary to deliver conformity with all relevant international and national legislation, and contribution to meeting compliance with other relevant policies and guidelines. The P.A. S.A. endorses the European Sea Ports Organisation (ESPO) Environmental Code of Practice.

\* *Natural conservation*

Effort to sustain natural resources and enhance nature conservation through integration of these objectives into any port development projects.

\* *Communication – Consultation*

Enrichment of the port's own scientific knowledge through external partnerships (e.g. the local academic community), providing procedures to communicate environmental information both internally within the port and externally within the local community, general public and government bodies. ThPA is in contact with port stakeholders (in addition to consultation activities) and it initiates community consultation efforts when any action plans are envisaged to have external impacts.

\* *Training – Awareness and Skills*

Development of opportunities for dedicated port staff at all levels to receive training in order to raise awareness of the importance of environmental issues and to develop the appropriate skills to fulfil their environmental responsibilities and obligations.

\* *Safety, Health and Environment*

Commitment to high standards of health and safety within the workplace in order to safeguard the well being of those working at, visiting or living near our operations.

\* *Energy use – Technology*

Efforts to make improvements to its energy efficiency and resource consumption and apply of best practice and technology whenever possible.

\* *Pollution prevention*

Development of further management techniques to conserve and protect water resources, promote clean air, minimize noise and reduce and recycle the waste generated by the port's operations and ships.

\* *Coastal zone management*

Support of procedures related to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM).

\* *Environmental monitoring*

Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing of both the port's environmental management performance (Policy, action plans, EMS etc) and the environmental quality of the port area with special reference to its significant environmental aspects, and to identify appropriate performance indicators.

\* *Emergency response*

Providing effective management of accidents and incidents with significant environmental impacts through an Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan.

\* *Publishing*

Publishing periodically an Environmental Report that will reflect ThPA commitment and progress to improving the port's environmental performance.

ThPA is constantly working to prevent environmental incidents and to maintain a high level of preparedness to minimise the effects of any emergencies arising within the port. These actions are reinforced by the constant training of the employees of ThPA and are continuously updated by following closely the new scientific trends of the environmental management.