

**8th June 2007
GREEN PAPER-YOUTH FORUM
ON WORLD OCEAN DAY**

35 students from secondary schools and Universities, had been informed about the initiative by telephone, posters at the faculty of Environmental Science and through direct contact by the staff involved in youth forum consultation on Green Paper.

The experts involved were Giorgio MATRICARDI, teaching environmental education at the University of GENOVA, Riccardo CATTANEO, Head of the Environmental Science faculty at the University of GENOVA, Laurence MARTIN, Vice President of "WISTA Italia" and ambassador of Green Paper Italy, Antonio DI NATALE, Scientific Manager of the "Acquario di GENOVA", and Bruna VALETTINI manager of cultural services of the "Acquario di GENOVA".

The discussion concentrated mainly on the protected marine areas: this is an important subject, also stated in the Green Paper under the Environment chapter.

Antonio DI NATALE greeted the guests and introduced the subject matter. Then, Bruna VALETTINI informed people about what the Green Paper involves and its aims, giving importance to the consultation process destined to involve citizens in the decision procedure concerning maritime activities and sustainable development.

After the video about the green paper produced by the European Community, Laurence MARTIN informed people about what the shipping sector is doing to promote sustainable practices, as well as what is yet to be done to reduce the risks involved by shipping activities.



Riccardo CATTANEO followed by discussing the situation in Italy regarding protected marine zones. Finally, Giorgio MATRICARDI involved the students in a group discussion encouraging them to participate.



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Summarised outcomes of the discussion:

- The need to teach "sea culture" in schools. To increase their awareness of the importance the Ocean have in our daily lives.
- The need to create a specific structural plan for teachers, to accomplish modern teaching techniques for subjects linked to the sea and the environment.
- Awareness of what the protected marine areas represent a benefit for the environment and in some cases also a tool for social and economical development.
- The need to protect small communities starting with the inland, which has a direct impact on our coasts.
- The need to increase controls and sanctions in case of disrespect towards current regulations in protected marine zones.
- A suggestion to reduce tax for public administration, and Councils, that help the environment.
- The lack of controls, regulations and management plans for the protected marine areas.
- Awareness of the difficulty of integrating the environmental protection and the exploitation from communities and tourists.
- Awareness that individual daily actions can have an impact on the environment, especially when it contributes to changing people's mentality. However, a serious structural public action is necessary.
- Regarding sustainable development, firstly, we need to ask ourselves what development is; it is the environment that needs to be the main subject, not development.
- To resolve environmental problems we can not think that we can increase productive activities and therefore consumption with no objective. We need to take a step back and make sacrifices for a better sustainable future.