





**ERIKA  
PRIVATE SECTOR AND PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE SHORELINE RESPONSE :  
FACTS AND LEARNINGS**

*M. Loïc Kerambrun – Cedre – Rue Alain Colas BP 20413 – 29604 Brest  
Loic.Kerambrun@le-cedre.fr*



*ERIKA  
private sector and public sector  
in the shoreline response :  
facts and learnings*




Loïc Kerambrun  
Cedre



*ERIKA OIL SPILL RESPONSE  
A four stages long story*






- *24th Dec. 99 - Jan. 00 : landing crisis  
set up Polmar scheme + gross recovery*
- *Feb. - Jun.00 : saving the beaches  
gross recovery + beach cleaning*
- *Jul. - Sept. 00 : response slow down*
- *Sept.00 - Summer 02 : Final clean up*



## A long story : why?

- Type of oil : viscosity and persistence
- Type of pollution : successive arrivals of fuel
- Bad meteorological and sea states conditions
- Awarding public contract : procedures in the frame of European market
- A national oil company involved in the pollution







## origin of response staff and equipment:

Before Erika spill

- **Polmar strength:** army, firefighters, Civil Protection Corps + administrations (public works)
- Local communities
- Volunteers
- **Private sector** (mainly for logistics, transport, and vacuum pumping)
  - requisition
  - provision of service



## origin of response staff and equipment:


During Erika spill

**POLMAR units**

- (the same as previously)
- + dedicated short-term jobs (STJs), funded by MoE
- Big decrease after summer 2000,
- Only firefighters and STJs during 2000
- until end of 2000


**Private sector**

- Called on in the early January by TFE
- Then Polmar around March




### *Recourse to private sector*

<b>Why ?</b>	<b>What contribution?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tailing off / replacement of Polmar units</li><li>• Weariness / units balk at picking up tarballs</li><li>• Sometimes, units refuse to be managed by local supervisors</li><li>• Deterioration of relationships between fire brigades and Army<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– daily allowance</li><li>– mecanization</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accommodation</li><li>• Permanent teams on the field</li><li>• Maintenance and repairs</li><li>• Know-how</li><li>• Long term motivation</li></ul>





### *Direct Involvement of Total Fina in cleanup operations*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• End of December 99 : TFE, not legally responsible, accepts moral obligation to participate in cleanup operations</li><li>• Authorities entrust the company with cleanup of the sites which require the highest technical level (economic and ecological point of view)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TFE does not want its cleanup units to be the only ones involved at the scale of a commune. In most cases, concomitant presence of Polmar units on the same area.</li><li>• TFE asks for<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– an official request from Polmar</li><li>– precise guidelines and specifications</li></ul></li><li>• TFE is well aware that it is going towards an obligatory result principle and not only an obligation regarding the means</li><li>• TFE calls on the very few oil spill reponse companies, which will introduce innovations</li></ul>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



### Rocks cleaning

- Protection
  - anti-splashes
  - effluents recovery
- Hot water without pressure



### Accessing uneasy work sites (cliffs)

- Professional ropeworkers
- Lifting gears



Source Sycopol

Source Total / MLA



### Cliffs : why to clean them?

- An ecological & economical impact
  - Emblematic landscape
  - Wild and natural coastline
  - Dangerous but frequented (tourism and goose barnacles, harvesting)
- A source of contamination
  - Coves with boulders full of oil





### *Cliff cleanup: How was the decision taken?*

In the course of January 2000 :

- « firefighters and militarymen are not assigned to risking their own life for oil »
- But dangerous sites are frequented by volunteers (what to do?), so specialised firefighters are called on
- On Belle-Ile Island : volunteers from Alpes (= mountaineers)

Early January 2000 :

- Contact with professional companies
- Transfer to TotalFina

Early Mars 2000 :

- First ropeworkers site opened by TFE on Groix island



### *Public contract during crisis (1)*

- Private sector not used to emergency supplying (renting, purchase)
  - Skips
  - Overalls
  - High-pressure cleaners
  - Sieving machines
- Just-in-time methods (no stock)



## *Public contract during crisis (2)*

- Public contract procedures not suitable for emergency situations (purchase, renting and provision of service)
  - An emergency situation imposes reductions in consultations and time limits more or less in accordance with an actual competitive procurement. Persons in charge can thus be induced to risk personal sanctions
  - A reflection on this subject should be initiated



## *Public contract and crisis (3)*

- As regards cleanup call for tenders :
  - after crisis but works require a relative urgency
  - conformity to the reglementation imposes quite long consultations times (70 or 52 days) and therefore even longer times before cleanup can start.



## RESULTS

- Privates cleanup sites generated stimulation
  - between teams
  - private sites became reference
    - techniques adopted
    - level of cleanup
- Output of operations was significantly increased
- A new player appeared on cleanup sites : the « Health & safety » co-ordinator (initiated by Polmar)





## Conclusions (1)

- The **opening to the private sector** is a major innovation in the French shoreline response system
- This opening and the involvement of TFE :
  - had obvious consequences on the quality of the cleanup
  - will probably have repercussions on the future French system, and possibly on the organization of other countries



## Conclusions (2)

The Erika spill showed that :

- If the **opening to the private sector** is beneficial from a certain point, Polmar units will go on playing a major part in the first days of the spill (gross recovery), especially if the pollutant cannot be pumped
- Some **private companies** had the opportunity to demonstrate their professionalism and know-how (not all of them)
- **Techniques and procedures** have been improved, leading to better output of cleanup techniques and better preservation of the environment, but also a better compliance to health and safety requirements
- **Cleanup of cliffs** is feasible (as long as professional workers are involved and safety procedures clear and complied with)