

## THE SEA OFFERS IMMENSE POTENTIALITIES

The sea is at the heart of the challenges of our century where globalization and maritimisation increasingly intertwine. While the development and structuring of the world were conducted mostly by the sea, 90% of the seabed remains to be explored. In this time of growing world population, emergence of fast developing countries and gradual depletion of land mineral and energy resources, the sea offers to mankind immense possibilities.

### RESOURCES FROM THE SEA

Resources from fishing and fisheries highly contribute to feeding the world expanding population. As an example, in France, fishing and fisheries employ 25000 people, produce 800000 tons of food and €1.7 billion revenue, though covering only 80% of the nation's needs. Other marine resources are a big stake: rare earths, molecules for creating drug, food or industrial products.

Regarding energy resources, increasing global population and its needs requires developing the production of oil and gas. They are already being prospected and exploited in all seas: today 30% of all oil and 27% of gas come from the seas. In addition, renewable energies from wind, waves, tides and streams offer a big potential to be captured by all sorts of offshore and onshore turbines and installations.



### SEAS NEED TO BE PROTECTED

Human activities have a direct impact on oceans: they contribute to climate change, are polluting, cause ripple effects on water quality, and modify the marine ecosystem. New illnesses appear, animal species migrate or become extinct.

The abundance of marine resources and the concentration of property in transit on major trade routes have produced an upsurge of piracy and illicit trafficking (drugs, weapons ...) which, as illegal immigration, increasingly use waterways. As traffickers use sophisticated means navies are being requested to safeguard the interests of the states, protect populations, maintain peace and enforce compliance with the law of the sea.

80% of the world population are living at less than 100km from sea shores: we should seek to know the oceans better, to exploit them with measure; we should take care of the sea because "the sea is the future of the Earth".

### LYBERTY AT SEA

Moreover, the sea and the freedom of movement it favors, once a way to discover, conquer new territories and exchange, have become a major economic issue, essential to global trade. The container revolution symbolizes the development of maritimisation as it leads to better productivity with a significant reduction in the real cost of transport. The increase in trade flows transiting by sea is stronger than ever. 80% of the global movement of goods happens nowadays by sea. At a time when the exploitation of the marine environment and its resources has become a gateway to the world and a key to the economic development, the free movement of goods must be maintained.