



Loop project - National research
INTERVIEWS: Entry # 45



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VASSILIOS DEMETRIADES

Shipping Deputy Minister
of Cyprus



Authorized by Vassilios Demetriades

Vassilios Demetriades

is the Shipping Deputy Minister to the President since 10 July 2020.

Prior to his appointment he served as a Policy Officer in the Directorate General of Mobility and Transport of the European Commission dealing with the coordination of the EU maritime transport strategy and EU's external maritime transport relations for 5 years. He was previously involved in the promotion of EU sustainable shipping initiatives through the coordination of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum and he has also served as a Member of Cabinet of Commissioner Vassiliou responsible for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

He has formerly served the Cyprus Public Administration in various positions: Head of EU Affairs at the Cypriot Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works dealing with the formulation of Cyprus's national position to the EU transport, telecommunications, integrated maritime and space policies as well as with the overall coordination of the Cyprus Presidency to the EU pertaining to these areas and as trainer-lecturer on EU Affairs at the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration (2009-2013); Counsellor for Maritime Affairs at the Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU (2004-2008); Maritime Affairs Officer at the Cyprus Maritime Administration (1998-2004).

He studied Economics at the University of Surrey and then acquired an MSc in Management Science.

HOW did you discover the opportunities related to reuse?

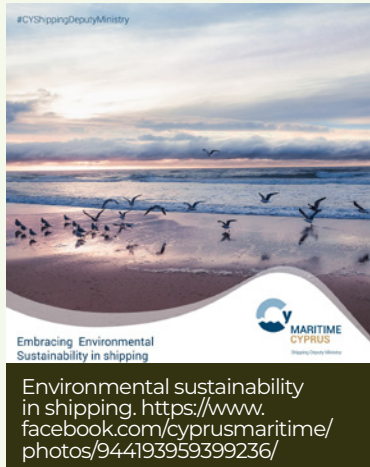
Here, in the Shipping Deputy Ministry of Cyprus, our mission is to safeguard and further develop the Cyprus shipping as a safe, socially responsible and sustainable industry. This is done with our primary purpose to promote the enhancement of the national economy and the creation of new jobs, as well as the specialisation and expertise in the sector.



Our ideology is founded on us promoting certain values that are vital for the profession we are in. Some of these values consist of reliability, excellence of service and responsiveness. These qualities are essential in establishing good relationships with the public, in what they require from us and, in our turn, us helping them in what they need. Every action that we take is transparent as we are also open to suggestions as well as creative and innovative ideas that could help us develop as an organization.

We realize that we have a certain social and environmental responsibility to the citizens of our country. Considering this last one point, our main effort is to gradually integrate the policies of our Ministry into any actions we take. Furthermore, what we have tried to integrate in our daily lives, is the reuse of the materials. We, also, promote actions for the reuse of materials and any other objects that are on board ships at any given time, whether these are used by guests or the crew itself.

“Reuse” is an environmentally preferred alternative to other waste management methods, because it saves energy, which is spent on the production of these goods, and in addition valuable raw materials such as oil, water, gas and many others.



Some of the measures taken for the protection of the environment are such that they either stop or reduce the negative effects of production and promote the management of waste. This is done following a certain hierarchy that supports prevention, preparation for reusing, recycling, energy recovery and disposal. It is also very important that the volume of waste leading to final disposal is reduced, thus increasing the lifespan of any product and also reducing the cost of environmental costs related to the disposal of waste. What I am trying to say is that, we try not only to integrate this philosophy of reusing into the daily actions of the Deputy Ministry, but also to encourage ships under the Cypriot flag and the entire range of maritime transport to integrate this approach of reusing into their own policies, as well as in the way they handle the reuse of any materials they have.



WHAT DO YOU REUSE AND HOW:

can you give us some examples of reuse in your economic activity?

In the Deputy Ministry of Cyprus, we have managed to incorporate different practices to promote the idea of reusing materials. One of the first practices one can notice, even as they walk into our offices, is the reuse and safe channelling of battery usage.



The interviewers with Mr. Demetriades. Authorized by Skevi Solomou

We seek to use rechargeable batteries, where this is applicable of course, as they have multiple charging cycles. It is in our immediate plans to start the use of only rechargeable batteries. We already encourage our staff to use them.

In addition to that, we reuse any kind of scrap paper by writing our rough notes on the back page of already used sheets of paper instead of a clean piece of paper. We, also, collect all the empty containers of toners and printer inks and reuse them by refilling them.

If they cannot be refilled for one reason or another, we recycle them. Moreover, an action that we often deal with, is the way we collect and separate the rubbish in the respective rubbish bins or disposable areas. Undoubtedly everything is done with the cautious use of materials in mind. At the ministry we try not to use plastic at all.



You can even see that today, in the way we have served your drinks in a glass which is an environmentally friendly way. Additionally, we make sure that each material ends up in an appropriate bin and it is utilized according to its properties. We did not use any plastic utensils, nor any plastic cutlery and plastic cups.

One can definitely observe that we are very careful in the use of materials. Even in the use of materials, for example, in the way we serve today in our ships, we do not use any plastic utensils, cutlery or cups. This is one way in which we promote within the state secretary some things related to this issue. At the same time, and as a Deputy Ministry, we support innovative ideas that seek research. A very good example to give you, is what we are doing right now.



The Shipping Deputy Ministry -
Authorized by Skevi Solomou

Through research, we record and draw conclusions about the ships, how they themselves use plastic, how they reuse it or how they dispose of it as waste in a way that it does not create a harmful environmental footprint, or, in other words, it does not create pollution to the environment. More specifically, what is important to us is sea pollution, how it is created and what we can do to reduce it as it is vital for the future. This is, of course, another huge issue which can be discussed further at another time.

INSIGHT: The Cypriot Port Authority, in accordance with National and EU legislation has implemented in 'Indirect Fee System' which means that every ship that enters Cypriot ports is charged a fee that gives it the right to dispose of its waste (solid waste, sludge and sewage), regardless of whether or not the ship will actually dispose of any waste. The charges for solid waste vary depending on ship type.



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The Indirect Fee System provides an incentive for ships to deliver their waste to ports rather than to dispose of them at sea.

The treatment of the collected waste depends on its type.

Recyclables are collected separately and sent for recycling, mixed waste is sent for disposal and, where possible, sewage waste is sent to sewage treatment facilities in Cyprus.

Sea your horizon, https://www.loop-erasmus.eu/wp-content/uploads/gravity_forms/1-17d8863d906bd651e098a494a42c9bf5/2021/10/7.-Letter-from-the-Shipping-Deputy-Minister.jpg

LET'S TALK about the real impact of reuse on your turnover: economically speaking, what are these figures?

I believe that the philosophy of reusing materials has definitely had a positive impact both on our economic turnover and transactions. And this is because the policies of reusing or safely recycling specific materials have certainly had, and will certainly continue to have, a positive economic impact on everyone involved. This refers to individuals like you and me, and it also refers to our everyday lives extending to an even wider range to the whole country, if not to the whole world.



At the same time, however, and most importantly, these practices and habits are both taught and learned so as to form a culture of respect and appreciation for the environment among every citizen. We need to further promote the idea that everything we do must be done in order to protect the environment but also to contribute to stop any further climate change. It is essential that this becomes part of our everyday lives, if not a lifestyle as such.

Strategic vision for CY Shipping <https://www.facebook.com/cyprusmaritime/photos/1131077944044169/>

So, for us, any effort made is first and foremost to cultivate a new way of thinking, to cultivate a 'green' mentality, and then that will have a positive impact for the future both for financial reasons and in the quality of our living. One of the activities that was organized to help the economic promotion of our ideas was a World Maritime Day 2021, that the Cyprus Shipping Deputy Ministry (SDM) organized in Limassol on Saturday 23rd October.



During the interview.
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This series of public events brought together the vast range of organizations with a connection to the sea to showcase how fundamental it is to entertainment, education, and the economy.

This one-day experience, entitled "Thalassa 2021: SEA to Live – Experience SHIPPING", incorporated activities including diving excursions, beach cleaning and water sports lessons.

Prominent local figures shared information on the role of shipping, the value of the blue economy, and the importance of marine environmental protection. In addition, visitors had the opportunity to learn about marine archeology, maritime studies and the seafaring profession.

They also had the chance to visit art exhibitions, and watch short films on the sea and shipping. This event gave citizens the opportunity to get an insight to the maritime activities of Cyprus, from a cultural, financial, educational and an environmental aspect. Your school, A' Technical and Vocational School of Limassol was there with you, the students and a team of teachers to help promote the school and the school's activities concerning maritime and it was done with a great success. We appreciate your presence and your assistance and I am sure your maritime future will be bright.



The interviewers. Authorized
by Skevi Solomou

REUSE



QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the so-called “circular economy”?

A	B	C
13%	4%	13%

2. Do you believe that a more sustainable economic system can be equally productive than the current one?

A	B	C
11%	10%	9%

3. Which of these consumer choices have you decided to implement in the last 10 years to protect the environment?

A	B	C
7%	15%	8%

4. How will the so-called “circular economy” affect the job market?

A	B	C
2%	27%	1%

5. In your work, how many strategic choices related to sustainability have been made in the last 10 years?

A	B	C
9%	11%	10%

6. Which of these 4 “Rs” is more important to ensure a better future for humanity?

A	B	C	D
7%	5%	16%	2%

7. Which of these 4 “Rs” is most present in your family’s daily life?

A	B	C	D
2%	2%	21%	5%

8. In your opinion, what link is there between technology and the “circular economy”?

A	B	C
27%	3%	0%

9. Do you think we will be able to change the way we consume so as not to affect the environment and its limited resources?

A	B	C
5%	20%	5%

10. Are you familiar with the UN 2030 Agenda or have you ever heard of SDGs?

A	B	C
24%	3%	3%

QUESTIONNAIRE



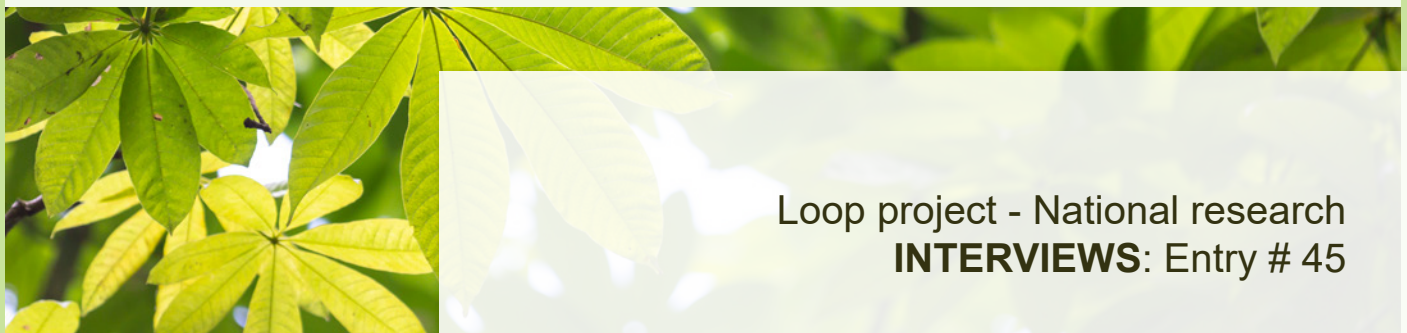
QUESTIONNAIRE

11. Do you think that the economy in the past was more sustainable than it is today?

A	B	C
16%	9%	5%

12. Which of these 3 statements do you consider the most true and important?

A	B	C
5%	21%	4%



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