

### Press Release



Marseille, 22nd January 2009

On the 21st of January, at 02:18, the Turkish cargo vessel Gunay 2, sailing from Fos sur Mer harbour, ran aground on the west coast of Planier Island, in Marseilles South Roads. Under the authority of the local MRCC (CROSS La Garde), together with Marseilles Harbour master, two Pilots were the first to attend to rescue the crew at 03:30

The heavy weather conditions, rough sea and strong gale did not allow them to board the Gunay 2 but a first evaluation was transmitted to the MRCC. At 06:20, a navy helicopter dropped the two Pilots, a Doctor, a fire-fighter, the director of Affaires Maritimes Safety Center, and specialists from tug company Vicent Boluda, on the deck. Rapidly the decision was taken to abandon the ship and the crew were transferred ashore by helicopter.

During the whole day of the 21st, many attempts were made to try and pull out the ship out of the rocks with the assistance of the two tugs VB Provence and Carangue which led to a slightly better position for the ship at the end of the day, but still dangerously aground.

At sunset, the Carangue broke its tow and the Navy suspended the salvage operations, but the two pilots Olivier Pasteur and Vincent Baccelli asked to stay on board with the Captain and the Chief Engineer.

During the night, they kept on trying to free the ship using the engine and the VB Provence, as the weather was still very strong, and the ships structure was suffering, putting the ship in danger of sinking. Finally at 01:14 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, due to weather improvements and to the weather moderating, they succeeded in freeing the ship from the rocks.

The pilots immediately checked the ship's buoyancy and decided, with the permission of the harbour, to conduct the ship to dry dock N°10 where the ship moored at 06:30.

Contact : [pilote13@pilotage-mrs.fr](mailto:pilote13@pilotage-mrs.fr)  
tél. : 00 334 91 14 29 10 (Patrick Payan – Président)