

#### **NEW LOOK FOR EMSA CORPORATE IMAGE**

The new year is often a catalyst for improvement, so EMSA is delighted to announce its new visual visage. At the centre is the 'new look' website at [www.emsa.eu.int](http://www.emsa.eu.int). The new homepage is now more dynamic and includes our new logo and is closely related to our new family of products. So, from now on, the complete range of EMSA hard copy products and stationery will have the same harmonised image. Business cards, folders, leaflets, reports and many other elements have all undergone the remedial treatment. And this includes, of course, the newsletter you are now reading.

#### **OUTCOME OF BUDGETARY PROCEDURE**

The Budgetary Authority (European Parliament and Council) have agreed, for the year 2005, on a budget of 17.5 million euro for the Agency and 17.8 million euro for the activities in the field of oil pollution response. In 2005, the Agency has the possibility of recruiting some additional staff. In total, EMSA will have 95 statutory posts at its disposal to carry out the work programme 2005, as agreed by its Administrative Board. The work programme will be printed and distributed in February.

#### **PORT STATE CONTROL (PSC): VISITS TO FRANCE AND POLAND**

One of the tasks of EMSA is to assist the Commission in the effective implementation of European Union legislation. For this purpose, during November and December, an EMSA team visited France and Poland to assess their Port State Control (PSC) performance. These were the first two visits for the purpose of monitoring Member States PSC activities. It is foreseen that the number of such visits will be increased in 2005.

#### **TRAINING ACTION ON THE SAFESEANET PROJECT**

On 15/16 December 2004, a training session was organised in EMSA headquarters at the SafeSeaNet (SSN) project. Delegates coming from the latest entrant Member States (plus Romania and Bulgaria) attended this meeting and very interesting questions were raised. For instance, which goods should be declared to SSN? Information should not be limited to dangerous or polluting goods but should cover all the cargo. The conclusions of this session are summarised as follows: Member States involvement in SSN may vary widely. The Agency would like to see Member States level

implementation happen more quickly and wishes to further involve the Candidate Countries in the project. Landlocked Member States have also not been forgotten.

#### **OIL POLLUTION RECOVERY VESSELS: A PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL**

Following the publication of the reports on oil pollution preparedness and response, EMSA is now looking throughout Europe to contract 4 vessels on a "stand-by chartering" basis. A "Prior Information Notice" detailing the tendering procedure, has been published on <http://ted.publications.eu.int> (Publication Ref: N°2005/S16-014442. Publication Document N° 14442-2005).

#### **A FIRST EMSA WORKSHOP ON VESSEL TRAFFIC MONITORING**

On 27/28 January, EMSA will organise its first workshop on vessel traffic monitoring. Attendees will learn about international and European approaches. Then, speakers from France, Italy, Norway and United Kingdom will explain how they operate in their different countries. Lastly, the example of regional AIS in the Baltic Sea and the North Sea will be also included in the discussion.

#### **FALA PORTUGUES? BREVEMENTE**

"Do you speak Portuguese? Soon" EMSA staff are soon going to learn the subtleties of famous writer Fernando Pessoa's language. Berlitz has won the first 2005 contract to provide us with Portuguese lessons and these began on 24 January.

#### **EMSA CANNOT ASSIST ANGRY CRUISE PASSENGERS**

EMSA received a complaint from a lady whose 75 years old father-in-law was injured onboard a cruise ship and then hospitalised during the Christmas holidays. She wanted to find out whether she can claim damages for pain and suffering associated with a shipboard accident. She was of course politely informed that this is not within EMSA remit and pointed in the right direction, and it serves to point out the wide ranging questions that come to the Agency.

*If you wish to subscribe to this electronic newsletter, please contact EMSA External Communications: Louis Baumard ([louis.baumard@cec.eu.int](mailto:louis.baumard@cec.eu.int)) or Andrew Stimpson ([andrew.stimpson@cec.eu.int](mailto:andrew.stimpson@cec.eu.int)).*