

EMSA'S ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD DISCUSSES 2013 AND BEYOND



Vice-admiral and representative of Italy to the Administrative Board, Pierluigi Cacioppo, offers an AIS transponder to EMSA Executive Director Markku Mylly. The transponder will be displayed in EMSA's MSS operations centre.

During its last meeting of 2012, EMSA's Administrative Board agreed on the 2013 work programme and began discussions on the work programme for 2014. "We are heading towards a time of budgetary constraints", explained Markku Mylly. "However, the Agency will have to face the challenge of a revised mandate which is expected to enter into force in

January 2013." Discussions were also held on EMSA's five-year strategy. One of the fundamental reasons to renew the strategy is the revision of EMSA's founding regulation. The Administrative Board set up a task force that will be guided by a steering group headed by Deputy Chairman, Achim Wehrmann, together with two representatives from the Member States, one from the Commission and one from EMSA's senior management team. The aim is to have the five-year strategy decided in time for the board meeting of November 2013.

OSRV CONTRACTS FOR THE BAY OF BISCAY, SOUTH ATLANTIC COAST AND CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN

EMSA has further strengthened its network of stand-by oil spill response vessels by finalising tenders for the Bay of Biscay, South Atlantic Coast and Central Mediterranean Sea. In total, EMSA has contracted three bunker tankers, located in Ferrol (Spain), Sines (Portugal) and Malta.



From left to right: Matthew Refalo (Falzon), Markku Mylly, Aitor Aznar (Ibaizabal) and Maximo Gutierrez (Mureloil)

The tankers contracted for the South Atlantic and Central Mediterranean replace previous arrangements following the expiration of the contractual period. Only the vessel contracted for the Bay of Biscay will add a new response capacity to an area that has suffered some of the worst spills in Europe. All vessels will be pre-fitted and specially equipped for oil spill recovery activities and are expected to enter into operational service during the first half of 2013. EMSA's Executive Director, Markku Mylly, expressed his pleasure that the Agency is now able to provide oil spill response for the Bay of Biscay as this was one of the main target areas in previous years.

SAFESEANET AT 2012 E-MARITIME CONFERENCE

"Connecting the maritime world - Towards 2020" was the theme of this year's e-maritime conference held by the EU Commission on 22 November. The aim of the conference is to help industry and government administrations identify, develop and adopt e-Maritime solutions. EMSA's Executive Director presented a brief overview of the current role of SafeSeaNet (17,000 vessels tracked in EU waters at any one time), recalling that SafeSeaNet contributes to the broad e-Maritime concept of "supporting the development and improvement of electronic information and communication". In addition to this, SafeSeaNet constitutes a key implementing tool of the Reporting Formalities Directive. In the future, SafeSeaNet might also include activities such as improved information exchange between administrations and businesses.

OIL SPILL DISPERSANTS: LEARNING FROM THE DEEPWATER HORIZON

On 26-27 November, delegates from EU countries and Regional Agreements attended a workshop organised by EMSA on the use of oil spill dispersants during the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) incident. Presenters included



Attendees of the oil spill dispersants workshop

representatives from the US Coast Guard, BP, and other international experts actually involved in the DWH spill response. The workshop addressed

operational aspects of DWH dispersant application, the ongoing environmental monitoring and impact assessment process, and presented recent dispersant-related regulatory developments in the US and EU countries. In addition, research on the application of sub-sea dispersant after an incident was also presented. The workshop enabled interesting discussions and an exchange of experience between EU, US and industry experts, concluding that while a lot of data on the DWH spill's environmental impact is still being analysed, dispersant usage (and sub-sea dispersant application) can be an important oil spill response tool that should be properly considered in national contingency plans.

ON OUR WEBSITE

Twitter: Simply log on and follow EMSA_Lisbon

Careers: Temporary Agent: Network and systems engineer (Deadline: 17 December 2012); EMSA/Traineeship for the Spring programme (Deadline: 3 January 2013); EMSA/National Experts in Professional Training (NEPT), deadline: 11 January 2013