

AGENCIES TO FORGE CLOSER TIES OVER COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS

The European Parliament and Council have approved the proposal from the European Commission to incorporate a common article in the founding regulations of three EU agencies on their cooperation over coast guard functions. The Council gave its **final approval** on 14 September, paving the way for activities to begin in 2017. The move will strengthen cooperation between the EU's three competent agencies: the European Fisheries Control Agency, the European Maritime Safety Agency and Frontex. This will allow the agencies, each within their mandate, to better support authorities carrying out coast guard functions at national, European and, where appropriate, international level. This will be done in a host of ways, including: sharing and fusing data from ship reporting systems and other relevant systems; providing surveillance and communication services, including space and ground-based infrastructure; establishing best practices and training staff; exchanging information on coast guard functions and analysing operational challenges and emerging risks in the maritime domain; and, engaging in multipurpose operations.

EMSA HOSTS SECOND AUTOMATED BEHAVIOUR MONITORING WORKSHOP

Fourteen experts met on 28 September at EMSA's premises in Lisbon for a second operational workshop on Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM). ABM uses Integrated Maritime Service tools to analyse position reports for the detection of specific behaviour. The workshop gave these experts who are already active ABM users the opportunity to gather knowledge and share operational experience on the ABM algorithms, as well as to discuss new requirements and possible future developments. Participants provided positive feedback on the existing tools and there is strong interest to continue the work in this area. The overall objective is to support maritime surveillance operators performing an array of different functions (border protection, safety, security, and fishery control).



WORKSHOP WITH EU RECOGNISED ORGANISATIONS

On 19 and 20 September EMSA welcomed twelve organisations, recognised by the European Commission and authorised by member states to act on their behalf for ship survey and certification. These organisations are inspected regularly by EMSA on behalf of the European Commission. The purpose of this technical workshop was to discuss issues of common interest resulting from EMSA's inspections, as well as new developments in the industry. The agenda included fire safety aboard Ro-Ro passenger ships, the implementation of the ISM Code, cybersecurity/safety and new inspection techniques (e.g. by means of drones). Several issues were identified for further follow-up. The intention is to organise similar workshops on a regular basis.

POSITIVE UPTAKE OF EMSA STUDY ON ALTERNATIVE FUEL IN SHIPPING

EMSA's study on the use of ethyl/methyl alcohol in shipping was presented in the margins of IMO Sub-Committee on Carriage of Cargoes and Containers, held in London on 5-9 September. The presentation drew a large audience from



various delegations. EMSA had the opportunity, together with the European Commission, and the contractors for the study (SSPA Sweden and Lloyds Register) to present the **main findings of the study**,

highlighting the results and recommendations of the Safety Assessment exercise conducted for different generic ship types, including a RO-PAX and a chemical carrier. Several safety considerations were discussed, including the main fire extinguishing and detection aspects related to ethyl/methyl alcohol fires on board ships. The results of the study form the basis of a European Commission information paper to IMO. It is expected that this will contribute to discussions on the amendments to the International Code of Safety for Ships using gases or other low-flashpoint fuels, and specifically on the inclusion of provisions and technical measures for the use of ethyl/methyl alcohols as alternative fuels in shipping.

3RD ASEAN-EU MARITIME SECURITY COOPERATION MEETING

The 3rd ASEAN-EU High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security Cooperation took place on 15-16 September in Bangkok. This dialogue offers a platform to share thoughts on peace, stability and security in particular in South East Asia. In his keynote speech, Prof Dr Surakiart Sathirathai highlighted the cooperation needs between ASEAN countries and the EU in the areas of maritime security, port security, maritime surveillance, irregular migration and humanitarian and disaster response. EMSA's Executive Director gave two presentations at the seminar. The first explained EMSA's role and mandate, focussing particularly on monitoring capabilities and the impact these have in building up a comprehensive maritime picture of the EU's sea areas for the benefit of the European Commission, member states and other EU Agencies. The second presentation covered EMSA's support role in controlling migration and illegal human trafficking in EU waters.



emsa.europa.eu

CAREERS: SNE Project Officer for Equasis (deadline: 31/10/2016) (see website for more opportunities)

PROCUREMENT: RPAS services in support of the execution of Coast Guard functions (deadline: 17/10/2016)

WORKSHOP: User requirements workshop for the recently established Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service (Lisbon, 15/11/2016)