CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP TARGETS NEEDS OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

A capacity building workshop took place in EMSA on 29-30 March to map out the implementation needs of national authorities in the areas of: Flag State obligations; Port State Control; as well as EU and international legislation to prevent pollution from ships. The workshop focused on capacity building through: training and e-learning; the enhancement of specific tools; and, guidelines and exchanges of best practice. Frontex and EFCA also presented capacity building initiatives for their own user communities. The outcome of the workshop, the basis of which will guide EMSA activities in this area, will be presented at the June Administrative Board meeting. Further discussions are expected to take place with national experts during dedicated workshops.

COPERNICUS MARITIME SURVEILLANCE TESTED IN SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE

The Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) service provided support to a search and rescue exercise for the first time, following a request from the Cyprus Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Larnaca. The exercise took place on 28 March 2017, and simulated a plane crash on shore with a potential impact on coastal waters. On the day of the exercise, EMSA delivered earth observation services to the JRCC 45 minutes after satellite overpass. This consisted of a 50 cm resolution WorldView-2 optical image over the area of interest. The service included an activity detection report, noting the location, identification and description of the visible features (e.g. objects) possibly related to the exercise. The operational end-user (JRCC) provided very positive feedback, stating that “the detection of the targets was good”. CMS services are available to authorised users from member state and EFTA countries.

SHARING BEST PRACTICES ON RO MONITORING ON INTERNATIONAL ARENA

On 29 March EMSA hosted a meeting with representatives from the European Commission, the United States Coast Guard and Transport Canada. The meeting offered the opportunity to exchange best practices on monitoring Recognised Organisations (RO) that survey and certify ships on behalf of flag States. The informal workshop was considered a success and will lead to further exchanges in the future.

EFCA, FRONTEX AND EMSA STRENGTHEN COOPERATION ON COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS

EFCA, Frontex and EMSA took a significant step forward in their cooperation on coast guard functions by signing a Tripartite Working Arrangement on 17 March, as foreseen by their recently revised founding regulations. The agreement sets out the framework for enhanced synergy between the agencies, enabling them to support the activities of more than 300 civilian and military authorities in a wide range of areas such as maritime safety, security, search and rescue, border control, fisheries control, customs control, general law enforcement and environmental protection.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ‘OUTLOOK 2017’ PRESENTS AGENCY’S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES CONCISELY AND VISUALLY

Recent publication presents concrete actions and steps EMSA plans to take in 2017 to deliver on its multi-annual strategy. It represents a condensed version of the Single Programming Document which was adopted by EMSA’s Administrative Board in November 2016 and is available on the website. The EMSA Outlook 2017 publication is organised by activity with planned developments outlined in a short narrative: maritime transport and surveillance; visits and inspections; technical and scientific support; pollution response; and internal management.

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CAREERS: (SNE) PO for Regulatory Compliance & PSC (3/5/2017); (SNE) PO for Institutional Services (19/4/2017)

PROCUREMENT: Provision of ship and company data for the Equasis database (1/5/2017); Provision of Interim Services for EMSA and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (26/4/2017); Provision of interpretation services (24/4/2017)