EMSA LAUNCHES THETIS–MRV REPORTING SYSTEM TO HELP REDUCE CO2 EMISSIONS FROM SHIPPING SECTOR

THETIS–MRV went live on 7 August marking the first of several steps in the EU’s efforts to include the maritime transport sector in overall policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The system will enable companies responsible for the operation of large ships using EU ports to report their CO2 emissions, as required by law from 1 January 2018 under the EU’s Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Regulation. EMSA was tasked to develop a robust system for the monitoring and reporting of verified data on CO2 emissions, annual fuel consumption and other energy efficiency parameters by the European Commission’s Directorate General for Climate Action under a four-year cooperation agreement signed in March 2016. Extending the possibilities of the original THETIS information system, EMSA specifically designed THETIS–MRV to enable companies to work, together with accredited verifiers, to share emissions reports and documents of compliance with the European Commission and relevant flag state authorities. Using the information submitted, the European Commission will publish annual aggregated data per ship covering fuel consumption, CO2 emissions and average energy efficiency indicators, among others. The THETIS–MRV web-based application and user tutorials can be found online.

COOPERATION IN EDUCATION TO ENHANCE COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS

EMSA participated in a series of meetings held in Rome on 11-13 July under the framework of the European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network project. The general objective of the project is to enhance cooperation in the field of coast guard functions. This, in turn, is expected to facilitate interoperability and cooperation among the different bodies carrying out coast guard functions as well as to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of related activities. The project comprises four work packages: administration, coordination & reporting, support for the European Coast Guard Functions Training Network, European coast guard functions expert exchange pilot programme, drafting of the final structure of the coast guard functions sectoral qualifications framework.

During the meetings, the progress on the four work packages was shared and agreement reached on the way forward. The sectoral qualifications forum follows the recommendations of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF). The reference levels and principles of the EQF are being used in order to design coordinated training and qualification standards. This will increase the employability, mobility and social integration of officials performing coast guard functions.

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO SET UP A POOL OF MARITIME EXPERTS

EMSA has launched a call for expression of interest from maritime experts to assist the agency in the provision of technical assistance to partner countries under the European Neighbourhood Policy. EMSA has been providing this form of assistance since June 2013 in the areas of maritime safety, maritime security, and marine pollution prevention, providing on-site assistance and complete demonstration related to the call can be downloaded from EMSA’s website. Candidates matching the profiles listed in the call are invited to participate. The call will remain open for a period of four years from the date of publication and the pool of experts valid until this time. Where a particular task is to be performed, EMSA will assign one or more experts on the basis of their skills, experience and knowledge, and in line with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interest.

EMSA CONDUCTS FACT-FINDING MISSION IN AZERBAIJAN

As part of the ongoing project to provide technical assistance to the Black and Caspian Sea regions, EMSA performed a fact-finding mission in Azerbaijan on 11-13 July. The purpose of the mission was to identify Azerbaijan’s specific needs in the fields of maritime safety, maritime security, vessel traffic monitoring, human element and the protection of the marine environment. Theses are now expected to be addressed during the implementation of the project. EMSA representatives visited the national vessel traffic monitoring centre which is under the governance of the state’s maritime administration. Preparatory work also got underway on the signature of the conditions of use for ClearSeaNet, in order for EMSA to be able to supply images which will facilitate the identification of possible polluters. The use of EMSA tools such as RuleCheck and MaKCs was also discussed.

NEW GRAPHICAL INTERFACE IN LIVE DEMO WITH REAL USE CASE SCENARIOS

A meeting and live demonstration of EMSA’s SafeSeaNet Ecosystem Graphical User Interface (SEG) was attended by participants from various European Commission Directorates-General on 15 June, in Brussels. The SEG objectives and technical implementation was presented, followed by a live-demonstration. A sequence of real use case scenarios was given, presenting different perspectives and operational use cases for safety, search and rescue, customs, law enforcement, pollution prevention and response functions. The SEG demo was interactive and open to questions and discussion on real life scenarios. The demonstration was well received and the audience welcomed the extended information available in SEG, as well as its modern, intuitive and easy-to-use design. It was noted that the new graphical interface is available for different platforms: standard browser-based desktop version and the mobile app. The audience also highlighted that the comprehensive, integrated data sets provide an added value for users and could be used as a reference model for presenting, sharing and exchanging information cross sector and cross border.

PROCURMENT: Expressions of interest for external database of experts (19/12/2020); Provision of box pick-up and off-site storage services (2/10/2017); Supply contract for the provision of two single point inflation boom sections for oil spill response at sea (25/8/2017); Study investigating cost efficient measures for reducing the risk from fires on ro-ro passenger ships (11/8/2017)