EMSA RESPONSE VESSEL ENGAGED IN FISHERIES CONTROL IN THE MEDITERRANEAN OPERATED BY EFCA

Interagency cooperation between EMSA and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) was taken a step further following a request for an inspection vessel by EFCA. EMSA identified the Aegís I vessel as the most suitable option for the vessel's characteristics and usual area of operation. The Aegís I is being deployed south of Sicily (Italy) for daily activities that include patrolling and at sea fisheries inspection, as well as maritime surveillance in the event of a potential search and rescue incident. This cooperation was made possible thanks to the latest amendment to EMSA’s founding regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/1625) which is designed to pave the way for increased cooperation among the agencies through shared resources. Following the vessel preparations for fisheries control and other coast guard-related tasks, the Aegís I began operating under EFCA’s direction on 4 August 2017 for a renewable short term contract.

NEW UPGRADE OF CECIS MARINE POLLUTION SOFTWARE TOOL GOES ONLINE

The Common Emergency Communication and Information System for Europe (CECIS) is an online application to facilitate coordination of requests for and offers of assistance during maritime incidents and accidents. It is managed by the European Commission’s Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) and is available to authorised users of the 34 participating states of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The system now contains a search function and more detailed information on EU/EEA member states’ and EMSA’s resources (vessels, specialised equipment and dispersant stockpiles) and provides for improved search functionality. It has the potential to serve as a single database of pollution response capacity for European and regional purposes and therefore simplify reporting obligations to member states.

EU-WIDE PICTURE OF SEAFARERS’ STATISTICS UPDATED FOR 2015

The Seafarers’ Statistics in the EU - Statistical review (2015 STCW-IS data) has been published by EMSA on its STCW-IS portal. The statistical review is based on data extracted from certificates and endorsements registered by EU member states until 31 December 2015 and recorded in the STCW Information System (STCW-IS). It represents a snapshot of the European labour market in terms of the number of seafarers holding valid certificates and endorsements in 2015. This is the second year such data is available. The first statistical review for 2014 was published by EMSA on 8 July 2016. As more data is collected in the coming years, this will make trend analysis possible and hopefully contribute to a better understanding of the maritime labour force in Europe. The data included now in the STCW-IS shows that 182 662 masters and officers hold valid certificates of competency (CoCs) issued by EU member states while another 102 661 masters and officers hold original CoCs issued by non-EU countries with endorsements issued by EU member states attesting their recognition. Overall, the end of 2015 saw slightly above a quarter of a million masters and officers as potential manpower to serve on board EU member state-registered vessels.