NORDSETH AND CARLONE TO HEAD EMSA ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
Andreas Nordseth and Nicola Carlone will head up the Administrative Board for three years starting in December 2017. The November Board meeting saw the current chairperson, the Belgian Frans van Rompuy, step down as chair. Mr van Rompuy served as chairperson of the Administrative Board since 2012. The board voted in a new chairperson, Andreas Nordseth, a long-serving board member from Denmark. Mr Nordseth takes up duties as new chairperson on 5 December 2017. The 2017 board meeting also appointed a deputy chair of the board, Nicola Carlone of Italy, who takes over from the previous Deputy Chairperson, Achim Wahrheim of Germany.

ENHANCING FIRE SAFETY ON RO-RO DECKS
The third workshop on the subject of fire on ro-ro decks was held at EMSA on 21 November. Representatives of accident investigation bodies, of national maritime administrations, the European Commission and relevant stakeholders gathered together and shared experiences and lessons learned. All representatives provided valuable contributions throughout the workshop based on their extensive experience. The main focus areas of the workshop were detection of such fires and the human element in relation to this issue as a whole. The technical work carried out so far has led to the introduction of a new work programme ram at IMD and the preparation of specific proposals to the ship systems and equipment sub-committee. Initiatives will continue in 2018, with EMSA managing the second research study on this topic, i.e. Firesafe II. Specific aspects of fires on ro-ro decks will be discussed at IMD in March 2018, for which EMSA is currently assisting EU member states and the European Commission.

LOOKING AT HUMAN BEHAVIOUR IN MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
On 22 November, EMSA hosted the second interessional seminar of the Permanent Cooperation Framework (PCF) in which delegates from 21 countries and the European Commission looked at human element issues in marine accident investigation. A number of experts delivered presentations on use cases and methodologies to capture aspects of human behaviour to be addressed during marine safety investigations. The participants actively debated technical topics, particularly in relation to local rationality and risk acceptance, ergonomics issues and man/machine interaction, the challenges of analysing fatigue, the approaches to support evidence collection, the considerations to properly develop the marine safety investigation report and the required knowledge for investigators to tackle human factors. Based on the views expressed during the meeting, the PCF will work together with EMSA to facilitate the exchange of national practices on the human element as well as to raise awareness among the community of marine investigators.

SAFE LOADING AND UNLOADING OF BULK CARRIERS
On 27 November, EMSA held a workshop in preparation of the forthcoming cycle of visits to member states related to the directive on the safe loading and unloading of bulk carriers (Directive 2001/95/EC). This event gathered representatives, from 16 EU and EFTA countries, from the European Commission and from EMSA. The workshop presented an opportunity for member states to share their operational experience and contribute to the shaping of the cycle of visits that will start in 2018. Participants had the possibility to focus on experiences, difficulties and good practices related to the implementation of the directive. The visits methodology, based on a process analysis approach, was presented together with indicators that will be used throughout the cycle to assess the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the measures in place. The meeting was welcomed by participants who provided constructive feedback.

EUROPEAN COOPERATION ON COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS
The European Parliament held a joint meeting of the TRAN, LIBE and PECH committees on 20 November to hear first-hand from the directors of the three agencies involved in the pilot project on European cooperation on coast guard functions. The presentations from EMSA, EFCA and Frontex demonstrated the success of the pilot project, and particularly its value to national authorities in the areas of information exchange, provision of surveillance services, capacity building and multipurpose operational cooperation. The tripartite working arrangement that sets out the various modalities for enhanced synergy among the three agencies entered into force on 17 March 2017. The three working groups are continuing their cooperation according to the 2018 strategic annual plan decided on by the steering committee.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CLEANSEANET
On 14-15 November, EMSA celebrated the 10th anniversary of the CleanSeaNet service by holding a conference with 80 participants, including EU member state representatives, the European Commission (DG MOVE & DG GROW), European Space Agency (ESA) representatives, and industry service providers. The participants were unanimous in acknowledging the excellent cooperation between industry, EU authorities and ESA, which allowed for the development of an Earth Observation service that combines aspects of the environment and maritime domain. In particular, EMSA recognised the importance of ESA’s continued involvement in the undertaking. The value of the service was highlighted, as well as future approaches and technologies to respond to EU needs in the maritime surveillance domain. All stakeholders had the opportunity to share their experiences with the service and contribute to the discussion of the future of space-based services during specific break-out sessions. EMSA released a publication that covers the beginning of the CleanSeaNet service, its overview, the main service milestones and features contributions from users and service providers.

DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HOLDS 33RD ANNUAL CHARITY SALE
Lisbon’s diplomatic community gathered together on 17 November to raise money for local charities helping those in extreme need and hunger. Through the diplomatic bazaar held in Lisbon’s Centro de Congressos, EMSA staff and spouses, together with representatives from the parliament and the permanent representation to the EU, were able to raise over €1,000. A special thank you goes to all those colleagues, friends and family who contributed to the event. The event, organised by the Association of Families of Portuguese Diplomats, sees embassies and international organisations accredited in Lisbon take the opportunity to support worthy causes and showcase products and traditions from their respective countries.

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