EMSA MAKES DATA ON MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS PUBLIC

Data from the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) is now available for online consultation by all. The EMCIP database which stores and analyses information on marine casualties and incidents has been up and running since 2011 and contains a wealth of valuable information. Until now however, its access had been restricted to member state and European Commission users. In agreement with these users EMSA has released a new version of EMCIP with data sharing capabilities. While the dashboard provides aggregated figures for casualties reported by member states within the scope of Directive 2009/13, the occurrence tab shows the list of accidents altogether with completed investigations. Filtering options are also available to refine the search. The overall aim of this move is to bring greater awareness to marine casualties and incidents to aid those who operated the safety measures taken and to the subsequent recommendations resulting from the investigations.

ANNUAL REVIEW OFFERING VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO THE SEAFARER LABOUR MARKET IN THE EU NOW PUBLISHED

On 6 August, EMSA published its fourth annual review on Seafarer’s Statistics in the EU. The review offers a valuable insight into the European labour market in terms of the number of seafarers holding valid certificates and endorsements in 2017 and is based on data extracted from EMSA's STCW Information System. The main beneficiaries of the review are policy-making bodies, in particular EU- and European Commission users. Additionally, ship owners and operators may benefit as they can gain awareness of the full magnitude of manpower available in the EU to crew their vessels. The information is also considered useful for maritime education and training institutions in the EU, as it makes easier to assess market needs for these services. Finally, researchers may be interested in some of the statistical output, as well as seafarers and the organisations that represent them.

PILOT PROJECT ADDS eCERTIFICATES TO THETIS INSPECTION DATABASE

EMSA has developed an online service to facilitate the communication of all statutory certificates issued by EU Recognised Organisations on behalf of flag states to flagged ships. In what is seen as a first step towards digitalisation, a full refresh of around 500 000 statutory and class certificates takes place each day for a total of 840 flags which are transacted with EU-Recognised Organisations. During a workshop on Capacity Building held in Lisbon on 26-27 March 2019, it was agreed that EMSA would launch a pilot project where Port State Control Officers from member states selling to part would check the transmitted information to assess its usefulness and reliability. Their feedback will help decide on future enhancements of THETIS and, particularly, on the automated control of pre-loaded digital information. The idea is to foster faster procedures and reduce the administrative burden for inspecting authorities and industry during inspections. The pilot started on 1 July 2019 and up to date 50 questionnaires have been returned. Preliminary assessment of the feedback suggests a good level of availability of information and usefulness for the inspection process. The THETIS inspection database supports several pieces of legislation and, in this particular case Regulation 391/2009 (EC) on Common Rules and Standards for Recognised Organisations. This piece of legislation requires Recognised Organisations to report information to the THETIS database.

EMSA RPAS GIVE REAL TIME SUPPORT DURING OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISES IN DENMARK & GERMANY

EMSA’s aerial platform for Oil Pollution Response (ODPR) exercises in Denmark and Germany, supporting authorities with live footage from lightweight Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS). The RPAS exercise in Germany on 05-August provided search and rescue and oil spill response support. Flying from on board a ship, the RPAS was able to detect a simulated spill (using propocum) and to locate a man overboard through its optical and infrared sensor. The BALX ODPR exercise on 27-29 August in Rønne, Denmark, included an open ship and equipment showcasing event. During the exercise, the RPAS was operated from shore with a flight demonstration over Rønne Harbour to show the aircraft’s capabilities as a support tool for GRP. The lightweight RPAS used in both exercises was the Indago vertical take-off and landing model. It is particularly suited to provide support during operations in areas of pollution response, safety and maritime surveillance.

GEORGIA LATEST COUNTRY TO JOIN THE EU LRIT COOPERATIVE DATA CENTRE

The European Commission has accepted Georgia’s request to become part of the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre, thereby enabling authorised users from their country to access LRIT information on Georgian flagged vessels worldwide. The cooperation with Georgia is part of the efforts towards decreasing piracy in a cost effective way. The application made in November 2017 was considered in light of the criteria listed in the Council Resolution concerning the EU LRIT CDC and was accepted in March 2019. The additional IMO assessments were completed in July 2019. Georgia thus joins the EU LRIT CDC in Montenegro and Tunisia. Georgia is the fourth country to join the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre.

Download the final report of finished investigations.

SEAFARER STATISTICS IN THE EU

SAFEMED Steering Committee Takes Stock & Mach 2019

On 3-4 September, the third Steering Committee of the EU-funded SAFEMED project was held at EMSA’s premises in Lisbon. The meeting was attended by representatives of nine beneficiary countries, namely from Albania, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon and Morocco as well as representatives from the European Commission (DG ENV, DG MOVE). In addition, representatives from Turkey, from the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on PSC (MSED Med), the IMO/VMEPIC and the UFM attended the meeting as observers. EMSA presented the activities undertaken from October 2018 to September 2019 focusing specifically on those related to: Flag State; Port State; VTS; protection of marine environment, human element in marine safety and maritime security security; Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum; bilateral activities and communication. The latest development of the new IT platform for PSC Officers in the Med MoU Region, known as THETIS-Med, was presented. This is scheduled to be operational from 1 January 2020 and training sessions will be organised for PSC Officers from the Med MoU to enable them to make the most efficient use of the platform. All beneficiary countries expressed their satisfaction with the work done and the results achieved so far and anticipated some new activities to be implemented at regional and bilateral level in 2019-2021. Many of these activities were included in the action plan adopted by the Steering Committee.