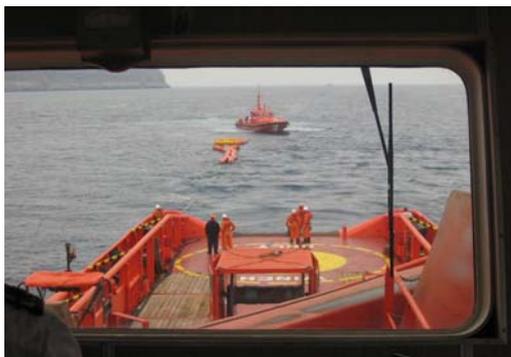


11 WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

Now that EMSA has functioning experts in most of its operational areas, the workshop programme is really getting into gear, with a further 11 planned before the end of 2005. These include: SafeSeaNet (June and Oct); port reception facilities (late September); STCW assessment plan and methodology (early October); places of refuge (mid-October); Mediterranean VTMS (late October); traffic monitoring (November); marine equipment directive (Nov/Dec); accident investigation methodology (Nov/Dec); dispersants (Nov/Dec); hazardous and noxious substances (Nov/Dec). All these workshops will be held in Brussels. In addition, further in-house meetings and training sessions are planned for SafeSeaNet, marine pollution research projects and assessments of recognised organisations.

EMSA OBSERVERS IN MEDITERRANEAN OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE



Two EMSA observers participated in an oil pollution response exercise which was organised from 10-12 May off Mallorca by the Spanish Directorate General of Merchant Marine and the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency. This exercise combined requirements under the both the Spanish annual contingency plan and the Lion Agreement involving Spain and France in Western Mediterranean. A number of emergency scenarios were rehearsed involving: 8 vessels plus fixed wing aircraft and helicopters from the Spanish, French and Italian navies. The scenarios demonstrated the capabilities in the areas of search and rescue, emergency towing, on shore and at sea oil recovery; aerial surveillance and evaluation (new for Spain). The simulation also involved the testing of sophisticated sensors capable of, for example, transmitting real time data on the nature and evolution of oil spills. At the end

of the exercise, a round table took place with the aim of exploring possibilities for a new agreement between Spain, France, Italy and Monaco.

STUDY ON FRAUDULENT PRACTICES

EMSA will very soon launch a call for a study on fraudulent practices. This has the aim of obtaining a precise description of the extent and character of unlawful practices relating to seafarers' certificates and endorsements. The study will propose ways to identify, describe and analyse such practices, as an input to EMSA's work on the assessment of third countries' maritime education, training and certification systems. The pre-notice information was published in the Official Journal 2005/s 07-0067153 of 09/04/2005. Further details will be available on EMSA's website

STUDY ON PLACES OF REFUGE MADE PUBLIC

EMSA has made public a study undertaken by Messrs Røsæg and Mr Ringbom (Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law in Oslo) on "Liability and Compensation with Regard to Places of Refuge." Both experts review the issues and provide an analysis in a 74 page document which, in particular, shows that a lot remains to be done on matters relating to harmonisation. The authors recommend actions to be taken, and the study is available at:

<http://www.emsa.eu.int/Docs/other/places%20of%20refuge%20study%20def.pdf>

EMSA MEETS THE FRENCH PRESS

Three times a year, the regional daily newspaper Ouest-France organises "European Institutions discovery trips" for French journalists with an interest in EU matters. Earlier in May, a group of 50 journalists met Commissioners, Members of European Parliament and civil servants in Strasbourg and Brussels and, on 12th May, EMSA was invited for the third time to talk to them. The Agency was very happy to do this, not the least because the journalists come from west France, which has a coastline that has been significantly damaged by oil pollution on a number of occasions in recent times (eg Torrey Canyon, Erika and Prestige).

If you wish to subscribe to this electronic newsletter, please contact EMSA External Communications: Louis Baumard (louis.baumard@emsa.eu.int) or Andrew Stimpson (andrew.stimpson@emsa.eu.int)