

THIS NEWSLETTER NOW PUBLISHED ON EMSA WEBSITE

In order to increase its extent, this EMSA newsletter will be from now on uploaded on our website. You will find there all newsletters, from the first one published in October 2004.

WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITIES 2006

The EMSA work programme for 2006 is now being prepared and it highlights two main policy priorities. The first is safety and inspections (Standards on Training, Certification and Watchkeeping, ship security, port state control and port reception facilities). The second is pollution response (satellite imagery and the second phase for chartering of stand-by response vessels). New positions will be created for pollution response and 17 more for safety and inspection tasks. The 2006 budget should be €44.6m (including €23,8m for marine pollution control) and budgetary approval by the European Parliament is forecasted for December.

MARITIME TRAINING LATEST

On 29th September, EMSA organised a workshop with the aim of discussing the technical methodology for the assessment of maritime education, training and certification systems with experts from the Member States. This is the methodology that EMSA uses when assisting the Commission in assessments and re-assessments of systems in non-EU countries, and it has been developed with the assistance of the Shipping and Transport College (STC) in Rotterdam. Within this procedure, a series of STCW related processes must be verified during the assessment of maritime administrations and training colleges.

DE RUITER ADDRESSES FRENCH EVENT

On 21st October, EMSA Executive Director, Willem de Ruiter, attended the annual conference of the Institut français de la Mer at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris. During his presentation, he sent a positive message to the representatives of the French maritime cluster, reminding them that, while the EU shipping community was relatively pessimistic in its outlook ten years ago, the present situation is now much better. Key improvements included EU owners regaining market share, having more ships built and increasingly registering their ships in EU Member States. With respect to the work of classification societies, he said that the Community policy adopted after the Erika had led to a progressive and substantial decrease

in the occurrence of serious class related problems on ships inspected in the EU. He also mentioned that a series of contracts will be signed with European ship owners before the end of the year, in order to provide stand-by anti-pollution vessels around the EU coast.

EMSA ATTENDS VIGIPOL 25TH BIRTHDAY

Emilio Martin Bauza, head of Technical Cooperation and Development unit, represented EMSA at the recent 25th birthday celebration at Vigipol. This union of 97 local and regional councils in Northern Brittany (France) was born in the aftermath of the Amoco Cadiz oil pollution disaster. Vigipol is pushing for more severe sanctions against polluters and trying, with some success, to create an anti-pollution network involving European civic groups. Mr Martin Bauza presented the work of EMSA, both generally and in relation to pollution prevention and response.

LISBON LETTER OF INTENT SIGNED

A letter of intent for the future EMSA temporary offices, located in the Expo 98 area, has been signed between representatives of the Lisbon Port Authority and EMSA on 17th October. The building will be ready for occupation on 1st April 2006.

BOARD TO ELECT A NEW CHAIRPERSON

The Agency's Administrative Board will hold its 12th meeting on 28/29th November. This is a significant event, as the members will be invited to elect a new Chairperson for the next 3 year period from 2006-2008, and also to adopt the EMSA 2006 work programme and budget. In addition, they will receive an update on EMSA activities in 2005 and will discuss a report on the outcome of the call to tender for "Stand-by Oil Recovery Vessels".

STAFF COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

EMSA Staff Committee elections were held on 12th October. The purpose of these was to elect a committee which will contribute to the smooth running of the Agency by providing a channel for the expression of opinions by staff. There were 10 candidates for 5 positions, which represent staff in different categories, and more than 90% of the staff took part in the voting process.

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