

## TRAN COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BRIAN SIMPSON VISITS EMSA

On 21 December, Brian Simpson MEP, Chairman of the EU Parliament Transport Committee, defied the wintry weather in northern Europe to make a flying visit EMSA. Mr Simpson's aim was to inform the work of his Committee by getting a better understanding of the operational impact of some of the maritime safety issues currently under discussion in Brussels. During an impromptu early visit to the cafeteria, Mr Simpson spoke to a number of individual staff members before meeting the Executive Director and members of the Management team to discuss issues of specific interest to the **TRAN Committee**. Mr Simpson was particularly keen to learn more about EMSA's activities in relation to maritime safety, counter-pollution and ship emissions. He also visited the Maritime Support Services, to see for himself what the Agency is doing in the field of vessel traffic monitoring and maritime surveillance.



## RULECHECK 4.0 ADAPTS TO NEW PORT STATE CONTROL REGIME

A new version of RuleCheck, the dedicated software for helping Port State Control officers, was released on 1 January 2011. The release coincided with the launch of the New Inspection Regime for Port State Control.

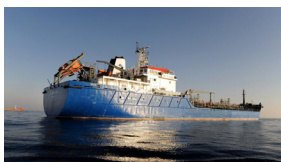


*EMSA Executive Director Willem de Ruiter welcomes a delegation from the Korean Register of Shipping on January 25 2011*

Developed for EMSA by the Korean Register of Shipping, version 4.0 of **RuleCheck** encompasses the update of the IMO/ILO Conventions as well as documents and procedures for Port State Control officers within the Paris MoU. A new feature has been developed to enable the easy and quick retrieval of the Convention reference linked to any deficiency found on board any ship. In addition, the database should be linked in 2011 with THETIS, the new Information System managed by EMSA and also deployed on January 1 this year.

## MORE OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSELS TO BE CONTRACTED IN 2011

On 31 January, a tender for stand-by oil spill recovery vessels was launched for the Southern Baltic, Bay of Biscay, Central Mediterranean, Western Mediterranean and Black Sea. Open information meetings about the tender will be held during February in different cities. Details are available on the **EMSA website** in the *Procurement* section. The contract duration is four years with possibility of renewal. The deadline for applications is 16 March 2011.



*The Limassol, Cyprus-based M/V Alexandria is the most recent OPR vessel to be contracted by EMSA.*

## 2010 USHERS IN THE PSC NEW INSPECTION REGIME

New Year's Day saw the coming into force of the PSC NIR and its supporting information system THETIS, developed by EMSA. This has been the culmination of ambitious work, for EMSA to facilitate a smooth transition for hundreds of users Europe-wide. During 2010, training on THETIS for Member States officials was provided, while an awareness campaign was organised for Member States and industry. Data was migrated from the former system SIRENaC and the EMSA-run RO/RO database into THETIS. As from 1 January, helpdesk support is being provided by EMSA staff, during extended hours. Despite it being early days, the application appears robust, behaves as expected and without disruptions, indicating to Member States the ships eligible to be inspected and for January 2011 recording more than 1300 inspections to date. The data shows a clear shift from the old targeting regime to the new one. In a little celebration to mark the occasion, in a New Year's staff address, the Executive Director congratulated all those involved.



*The new PSC information system THETIS has already recorded over 1300 inspections of vessels in Paris MoU Member States.*

## JAPANESE DELEGATION VISITS EMSA TO DISCUSS STCW CHALLENGES

On 21 January EMSA hosted a delegation from Japan's maritime administration, industry and maritime academia. The visitors were on a fact-finding mission to study how seafarer training and certification is carried out in Europe, and in particular EMSA's cycle of inspections and audits of these systems. In a follow-up communication, the delegation expressed their 'appreciation of EMSA's advanced methods and their intention to reflect the results of the study within their own system for seafarer training and recognition.'



*Ensuring high standards in seafarer training is a global issue, and cooperation across continents is vital.*

### ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

**EMSA documents:** EMSA Work Programme 2011; EU Member States claims management guidelines: claims arising due to marine pollution incidents.

**Procurement:** Service contracts for stand-by oil spill recovery vessels; provision of office supplies.

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