

CLOSER COOPERATION OVER ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION



The first meeting of the Permanent Cooperation Framework for the **investigation of accidents** in the maritime sector was held at EMSA's premises on 12-14 March. The PCF will provide an operational platform for accident investigation bodies to cooperate on issues such as technical expertise, training and data sharing. Chaired by Steve Clinch from the UK's MAIB, this first meeting gathered representatives from 28 AI bodies to discuss how the platform should be run. Backed by EMSA as secretariat of the PCF, the members will now draft the first work programme to be discussed at their next meeting.

RO-PAX DAMAGE STABILITY EXAMINED

On the 29 March, EMSA hosted a workshop for Member State experts, in which the results of a second study on Ro-Pax damage stability, which EMSA commissioned from the University of Strathclyde, were presented and discussed. The workshop included presentations on the first EMSA-commissioned study on the subject, the current status of other research on damage stability and perspectives from industry professionals on various aspects of the study. It also considered solutions that could be proposed to improve the level of safety of Ro-Pax vessels. Discussions notably focused on the key elements from the available technical evidence, to inform future EU and IMO decision-making.



INTERSPILL 2012 DRAWS IN CROWDS



With over 1 300 professionals from over 70 countries, the three-day Interspill exhibition lived up to expectations. Four EMSA staff were on hand to present the agency's oil spill response network and CleanSeaNet. Interspill which is organised in various locations across Europe once every three years is an opportunity for stakeholders

at all levels – industry, administration, university – to get together. The **presentations given by EMSA** can be downloaded from our website.

SAFEMED LRIT TRAINING WORKSHOP

EMSA played host to the SafeMed LRIT training workshop organised by **REMPEC**, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response



Centre for the Mediterranean Sea. The workshop, held on 19-20 March, brought together representatives from 13 countries, including Croatia, Montenegro, Morocco, Albania, Algeria, Turkey, Israel, and Tunisia. There were presentations from the IMO, IMSO, the Canadian LRIT Data

Centre, the EU LRIT Data Centre, and the LRIT IDE. The workshop was designed firstly to assist those countries which do not yet have a data centre by outlining the steps needed to create one, and secondly to present practical scenarios indicating the benefit of using the LRIT system.

EMSA SIGNS LRIT AGREEMENT WITH IMSO

On 20 March EMSA entered into an LRIT services agreement with the **International Mobile Satellite Organisation** (IMSO). This agreement establishes the relationship between IMSO, as IMO appointed LRIT coordinator, and the LRIT IDE which is subject to annual audit and review by IMSO. Currently, LRIT services agreements and/or contractual arrangements have been made with 67 LRIT data centres worldwide.

ALIEN INVADERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EMSA recently hosted a meeting of scientists to discuss the latest marine alien species invasions that have been introduced through ballast water and other vectors. The **International Council for the Exploration of the Sea's** (ICES) experts from North America, Europe and the Middle East met in Lisbon to share information on new invaders and the problems that they may bring. The Group also contributed to EMSA's work on sampling ballast water for compliance purposes. Depicted is the yellow spotted sea slug which has recently been found in the eastern Mediterranean. Research is now being undertaken by countries in the region to understand how this species has been transported and what its impacts on native species are likely to be.



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Documents: Inventory of possible training courses provided by EMSA for Member States