

EMSA MEETS EU PARLIAMENT

On 6 October, EMSA's Executive Director was invited to present the Agency to members of the European Parliament's new **Transport Committee**, chaired by **Mr Willem de Ruiter** addresses **Brian Simpson**. He explained



Mr Willem de Ruiter addresses MEPs

EMSA's general tasks and latest developments, such as the integration of vessel traffic monitoring systems. During a Q&A session, members of the Transport Committee expressed interest in numerous topics of current interest, including the quality of crews aboard ships, the protection of EU fishing vessels against piracy, the fight against illegal immigration, EMSA's network of oil pollution response vessels, and the transport of dangerous goods by sea.

EMSA HEADCOUNT PASSES 200 MARK



EMSA staff attend a recently-held training session.

On 16 October, the Agency passed the 200 staff mark. Among the 205 European citizens working at EMSA, Portugal is the best represented country with 44 nationals, followed by Belgium (23) and Spain (22). The most common staff status is temporary agent (168). There are also 23 contract agents, 10 seconded national experts and 4 EU Institution officials. We cannot say exactly who the 200th colleague was, as several took up duties on 16 October.

NEW DISH SERVES UP CLEANSEANET IMAGES

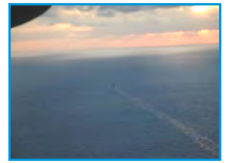
Tourists admiring the Tagus River from the Lisbon 'miradouros' (belvederes) can now see a large white dish installed on EMSA's roof. The 3.8 metre wide antenna is part



The new equipment being installed at EMSA's new headquarters

of the CleanSeaNet satellite service for detecting oilspills. The antenna provides secure and fast communication of satellite images between all nodes in the **CleanSeaNet** network: Lisbon, Tromsø, Matera, Benevento and the Azores.

FIRST OSCAR-MED OPERATION CATCHES TWO POLLUTERS 'BLACK-HANDED'



From 12-16 October, the CleanSeaNet satellite service participated in the first **OSCAR-MED surveillance operation** along the Genoa-Barcelona axis. All the countries of the Western Mediterranean basin took part, under the coordination of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre (**REMPEC**). Three spills were detected by satellite, then identified and confirmed by aircraft. Two ships discharging mineral oil within an Ecological Protected Zone are being investigated by the French authorities.

4TH CTG MPPR MEETING HOSTED AT EMSA



On 28 October EMSA hosted the 4th meeting of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution, Preparedness and Response (**CTG MPPR**). The CTG MPPR was established by the Agency in 2007 to provide a Community level platform for Member States to improve European preparedness for and response to accidental and deliberate marine pollution from ships. This is achieved through various projects undertaken within the CTG framework, including work in the fields of lessons learned from past pollution incidents, claims management and cost recovery, the implementation of the **OPRC-HNS Protocol**, and **EMPOLLEX** (exchange of marine pollution experts).

EMCIP GOES LIVE

The full version of the European Casualty Information Platform (**EMCIP**) went live on 8 October. EMCIP is a European data base for storing and analysing marine casualty data provided by Member States (**Directive 2009/18 EC**). It enables Member States and industry to better anticipate and spot trends in marine accidents.

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

- Recruitment: Project officer on training and cooperation (SNE).
- New EMSA procurement item: Invitation to tender N° EMSA/OP/13/2009 for provision of security and related services.

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