

### FRENCH MARITIME SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE SEA VISITS EMSA



Mr de la Gorce, French Secretary General for the Sea (left) and Mr de Ruiter, EMSA Executive Director.

French Secretary General for the Sea Xavier de la Gorce visited EMSA on 12<sup>th</sup> April. After a presentation on the work of the Agency, including the latest developments on SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet and the chartering of anti-pollution vessels, he met with Executive Director Willem de Ruiter and members of the management team. He took this opportunity to emphasise that maritime safety is a top priority for France and that he sees EMSA as "a privileged partner" in this area.

### GREEN LIGHT FOR EMSA'S 2007 BUDGET

The European Parliament Committee for Transport and Tourism discussed the Work Programme of the Agency at the beginning of April. This was needed because the Parliament's Budget Committee had decided to hold a portion of EU agency budgets in reserve. One of the conditions for releasing the amount was a positive opinion of the specialised committee on the justifications given for new resources in the Work Programme. In the case of EMSA, €2.1 million is in the reserve. At the meeting, DG TREN Director General Matthias Ruete and three executive directors from the transport oriented agencies presented the respective agency work programmes. Following the presentation by Executive Director Willem de Ruiter on the EMSA work programme, the Committee gave its positive opinion. The European Parliament Budget Committee should decide in May on the release of reserves of Agencies.

### NEW MARITIME INFORMATION TOOL

On 12<sup>th</sup> April, the Marine Institute of the University of Plymouth presented a data interface tool which has been developed for EMSA to enable it to review available data sources and information products relating to

maritime safety. The tool will enable EMSA staff to carry out searches for maritime safety related information in a more efficient way than would otherwise be possible, in particular given that a single data source may provide many data products, while conversely, one data product might be available from many data sources.

### LECTURE BY SIR ROBERT COLEMAN



Sir Robert Coleman, who was EU Commission DG for Transport for most of the 1990s, came to EMSA on 26<sup>th</sup> April with the goal of lecturing staff on the background of the Common Transport Policy, with special focus on the EU decision making processes. At the end of a comprehensive lecture, he took the opportunity to stress the importance of the set up of EMSA as a primary EU tool for improving maritime safety. He also reminded staff that the Agency is in an excellent position to promote and support positive change in the sector.

### RO-RO PASSENGER SHIPS IN FOCUS

This year, EMSA has organised two working group meetings to deal with the specialised subject of ro-ro passenger ships fitted with long lower holds. The second of the two meetings took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> March at EMSA headquarters in Lisbon. 17 EU Member States and Norway participated, and thus, the great majority of interests in this important type of vessel were represented. At the meeting, several options for technical interpretations of the SOLAS rules relating to damage stability were discussed. Also, a practical arrangement was reached relating to the free transfer of flag between EU Member States for this type of vessel. The participants also conveyed to the European Commission their wish for the amendment of Directives 2003/24/EC and 2003/25/EC.

*In order to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact Louis Baumard or Andrew Stimpson: ([louis.baumard@emsa.europa.eu](mailto:louis.baumard@emsa.europa.eu)) ([andrew.stimpson@emsa.europa.eu](mailto:andrew.stimpson@emsa.europa.eu))*