



AN EMSA NEWSLETTER: WHY? *As EMSA has begun to become operational in many of the areas of its technical work programme during 2004, it wishes to ensure that interested parties in the maritime world, and the public in general, are kept up to date with its activities. This newsletter is intended to give a monthly overview and update on issues and activities of general interest.*

WORKSHOP: RO/RO DATABASE EXPLAINED TO NEW MEMBER STATES. - Directive 99/35/CE on Safety Operations of Regular Ro/Ro and Ferries obliges Member States to survey these ships and record their findings in a report and on a database. The proper implementation of the Directive requires new Member States to have a profound knowledge of procedures and aspects not explicitly covered by the Directive text. A workshop for 25 representatives will be held on 6 and 7 October.

ROMANIA AND MARITIME “ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE”. - In early September, the EMSA Project Officer for Co-operation with Member States together with Commission representatives visited the Romanian maritime administration in order to monitor their progress on implementing the “acquis communautaire”. The team formulated a number of recommendations. A similar visit was undertaken earlier to Bulgaria.

SIX CALLS FOR TENDERS LAUNCHED. - EMSA first major calls for tenders have been launched. Unit B (Implementation and Inspection) is setting in place service contracts for a study on training of seafarers, a study on employment of seafarers from third countries in the EU and an assessment of port reception facilities for ship-generated waste. Unit C (Technical Cooperation and Development) is looking at studies on the specification and development of a marine casualty database and SafeSeaNet validation and further development. Tender evaluations are taking place at the moment. Companies can find out

more about these calls for tenders by visiting the EMSA website (www.emsa.eu.int) procurement page.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE: MEPs SUPPORT EMSA. - On 29 September, Willem de Ruyter was asked to make a presentation to the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, at a time when half of its members are newcomers. EMSA's Executive Director described role and tasks of the Agency. In particular, he took the opportunity of this exchange of views to remind the MEP's of the key issues associated with EMSA's oil pollution response task. At the end of the session, it became clear that the Committee supported the main directions being taken by the Agency.

LISBON LATEST. - On 22 September, the Portuguese Official Journal published the text of the Protocol between the Government of the Portuguese Republic and the European Maritime Safety Agency. It also published the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the headquarters of EMSA and the European Drug Monitoring Agency. These two legislative texts (Portuguese/English) can be seen on the EMSA website.

“ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS”: FROM SOAP TO SOP. - *Remember Ms Joanna Lumley? Ms Lumley, usually starring in the British soap “Absolutely Fabulous”, promotes also an antipollution product. It is made from straw encased in biodegradable webbing. According to the actress, it could absorb 20 times its own weight of oil. Should EMSA have been a research centre, Joanna was ready to pay a visit and convince us about the efficiency of what she calls a “wonder product”.*

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