

PORTUGUESE MEP VISITS EMSA



MEP Cláudia Monteiro de Aguiar from the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament paid a visit to EMSA on 21 March. Ms Monteiro took the opportunity to find out more about EMSA's general activities and its future developments.

EXCHANGING EXPERTISE ON OIL SPILL IDENTIFICATION AND FINGERPRINTING

On 2 March EMSA hosted a workshop on oil fingerprinting and the work of the Oil Spill Identification Network (OSINet) attended by 29 experts from 19 countries representing either emergency response organisations or national laboratories dealing with identification and fingerprinting of oil samples. The workshop was co-organised by Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and EMSA. The significance of rapidly and correctly conducted oil sampling and oil fingerprinting during and after the response to an oil spill was recognised and the varied levels of national practices in this field across Europe were discussed. The workshop concluded that there is a strong need for the provision of training on oil spill sampling and that it would be useful to develop practical guidelines on oil spill sampling and oil identification, based on the exchange of existing expertise among member states.



EMSA EXPANDS INTO NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THE EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE

Recent exchanges between the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and EMSA have demonstrated that SafeSeaNet (SSN) information and EMSA's Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) can provide OLAF officials and member states customs officers with concrete support for their analytical, intelligence and operational activities. EMSA provided OLAF with a hands-on training course on 17-18 March focusing on the main functionalities of the services and on specific operational scenarios. In addition a dedicated SSN and IMS training session for member state customs officers is planned to take place at EMSA premises in April 2016.



IMPACT OF THE REFUGEE CRISIS ON THE TRANSPORT SECTOR

EMSA was invited to present at a hearing organised by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Group of the European Parliament on the human and economic impact of the refugee crisis on the EU transport sector on 3 March. Outlining EMSA's role in facilitating more effective action, Markku Mylly explained "Our efforts have one aim, we need to provide the key actors with the most accurate maritime domain picture".



ITALIAN COASTGUARD OFFICIALS RECEIVE TRAINING ON HOME GROUND

EMSA delivered a training course on EU maritime legislation on 16-18 March 2016 at the premises of the Italian Coastguard in Genoa. In total 25 officials were present, including two participants from Germany and Spain. The three-day course presented the full spectrum of EU legislation related to maritime safety, security, environment and seafarers living and working conditions. It also highlighted the measures taken at EU level to promote safer and cleaner seas in the wider European region.



THREE NEW STUDIES IN THE PIPELINE FOR 2016

EMSA has launched three **tenders for studies** in the areas of ship-generated waste management, the use of fuel cells as a source of energy, and fire reduction on board passenger ships. The first study will support the upcoming revision of the Port Reception Facilities Directive by offering an overview of current waste practices and management of ship-generated waste on-board a range of ships visiting EU ports, as well as of the methods being used to reduce ship-generated waste. The second study will look at the potential of fuel cells as an energy source for shipping and will complement similar studies undertaken by EMSA on Liquefied Natural Gas, methyl/ethyl alcohols and biofuels. The final study followed on from a meeting of experts from maritime administrations and accident investigation bodies to discuss the issue of fires on vehicle decks of passenger ships. The resulting study will investigate the ignition risk from electrical faults and fire extinguishing failure in order to identify potential risk control options.

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PUBLICATION: Review and evaluation of the MAR-ICE Network

CAREERS: SNE Project Officer for Training and Cooperation (deadline: 11/4/2016)

PROCUREMENT: Evaluation of the implementation of EMSA's founding regulation (3/5/2016); three research studies as above