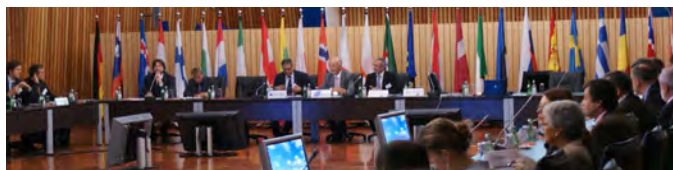


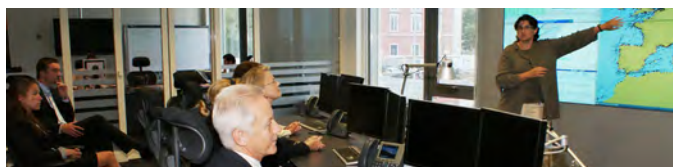
## ECSA-MINED IN LISBON: A FUTURE POWERED BY LIQUID NATURAL GAS?



*Gas giants: senior delegates weighed up all aspects of LNG - both pros and cons - during the LNG workshop.*

Will Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) be the future fuel for shipping? Stricter requirements on air emissions and future rules to limit greenhouse gas emissions from ships have made LNG an alternative fuel to oil. On 7 September, the [European Community Shipowners' Association \(ECSA\)](#) - in close cooperation with EMSA - organised a workshop in Lisbon to address various technical, administrative and financial challenges involved in shifting to LNG. The meeting was attended by ship operators, gas providers, public authorities and many others.

## RIKSDAGEN SECRETARIAT AT EMSA



*Swedish Secretariat for Transport visitors check out SafeSeaNet's near real-time picture of European ship traffic movements.*

The [Swedish Parliament Secretariat for Transport and Communications](#) visited EMSA's HQ on 23 September. A smörgåsbord of presentations included: the Agency's advisory role on environmental issues; themes 'closer to home' such as the Agency's cooperation with HELCOM; vessel traffic management in the Baltic Sea, plus the growth in shipborne transport of oil and chemicals from Russia. Before returning home to Stockholm, they met fellow Swedes who work at EMSA.

## XORNALISTAS ON 'RIA DE VIGO'

EU citizens need to know how oil spill response drills help Europe prepare for 'the next big oil spill'. On 23 September, EMSA organised a press tour in Vigo (Spain), where Galician journalists experienced a drill on-board the *Ria de Vigo*.



## NIR COUNTDOWN: 79 NOW TRAINED

20-24 September saw the last training course on the New Inspection Regime (NIR) and THETIS system for Port State Control. 79 representatives from Paris MoU Member States have now been 'trained as trainer'. They will disseminate their knowledge to the PSC community, ahead of the New Inspection Regime's introduction on 1 January 2011.

## POTENTIAL SAFESEANET ROLE IN DEVELOPING 'BLUE BELT' CONCEPT?

Belgian State Secretary for Mobility Etienne Schouppe visited EMSA on 7 September. On the Agenda was a topic championed by the current Belgian Presidency of the EU: the 'Blue Belt' concept, or EU maritime transport without barriers. If you are unfamiliar with this buzzword, the rationale is



promising: ships on intra-EU routes are today still hampered by cross-border formalities (customs etc.), which do not affect rail and road hauliers. The resulting red tape risks a 'co-modal backshift' away from sea freight to road freight, causing problems such as higher emissions, road congestion and increasing road maintenance. Mr Schouppe showed interest in SafeSeaNet, the EU vessel traffic monitoring system operated by EMSA, which may offer a means to monitor ships engaged in intra-Community trade. At the [Informal Council](#) organised by the Belgian Presidency on 16 September in Antwerp, interest was shown by the EU Transport Ministers for a 'Blue Belt' pilot project, which should be implemented with the help of EMSA.

*EMSA Director Willem de Ruiter (left) and Belgian State Secretary for Mobility Etienne Schouppe, in front of a near real-time SafeSeaNet image showing vessels in the Port of Antwerp.*

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## LABOUR CONVENTION WORKSHOP

Seafarers are at the heart of maritime safety, and it is vital for Member States' administrations to understand issues such regulation of working conditions and living conditions. Responding to requests from Member States for clarifying the application of the ILO's Maritime Labour Convention, EMSA organised a workshop on the 'Working and Living Conditions of Seafarers' during September, specifically aimed at those working in the area at national maritime administrations. 28 delegates from 24 Member States attended the workshop, with positive feedback suggesting a demand for more workshops on this issue during 2011.

### ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

**Documents:** [SafeSeaNet \(SSN\) Workshop](#) (14 documents).

**Documents:** [Pilot Projects on Maritime Surveillance - 3rd Meeting](#).

**Procurement:** [Network, Infrastructure and Systems Equipment and Services \(NISES II\)](#).

**Recruitment:** [Project Officer, Port State Control Information System](#)

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