

## INTERAGENCY COOPERATION ON COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS ENTERS NEW PHASE

The steering committee set up to manage European interagency cooperation on coast guard functions met for the first time on 22 June, in Vigo, Spain. It gathered the executive directors of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and EMSA. The directors put in place three technical sub-committees that will handle operational cooperation in the following areas: sharing of information and surveillance services; capacity building and risk assessment; sharing capacities and legal issues. The steering committee also endorsed the draft common 2018 Strategic Annual Plan which will be submitted for adoption to the governing bodies of the three agencies later this year. The interagency cooperation was incorporated in the mandates of the three agencies with the adoption of the European Border and Coastguard Package in September 2016.



## STRENGTHENING COOPERATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

The 7<sup>th</sup> Permanent Cooperation Framework meeting of the EU member state accident investigation bodies took place on 6-8 June. The 25 delegations present addressed many points: guidelines were adopted for marine accident investigator training and qualification; safety recommendations and a booklet of best practices among accident investigation bodies were considered; and, new topics were discussed including evidence collection, report writing, advanced training for investigators and the human element. EMSA presented a new prototype for the **European Marine Casualty Information Platform**. In association with the PCF meeting, and in line with the bottom-up approach to identify the needs of the competent authorities in charge of accident investigation, EMSA introduced its capacity building initiatives, including the use of tools such as RuleCheck (a repository of maritime legislation) and the Maritime Knowledge Centre e-learning platform.



## PLACE OF REFUGE COORDINATION AND PLANNING FOR SHIPS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

EMSA is currently preparing the next biennial table top exercise on **places of refuge** which is to be held in Norway on 27-28 September. Previous editions were held in the Netherlands (2013) and Malta (2015). The focus of this year's exercise is to be on the use of info exchange tools, particularly those related to chemical pollution, analysing the liability and financial guarantee aspects of place-of-refuge requests and testing the general applicability of the EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge. On 14 June EMSA hosted a meeting of the planning group which consists of the representatives of member states and industry. The next meeting of the planning group will be an on-site dry run of the exercise the day preceding the actual table top exercise. Both member state and industry representatives are actively involved in preparing presentations and input to support group dynamics and overall coordination with a view to ensuring the success of the exercise.



## STRENGTHENING EMSA'S POLLUTION RESPONSE SERVICES IN THE BLACK SEA

The oil tanker, Galaxy Eco, based in Varna (Bulgaria) and engaged in bunkering activities in the area, entered the operational phase of its contract with EMSA in June. Contracted from Cosmos Shipping AD, the Galaxy Eco enhances the existing **response capacities** in the Black Sea region thanks to its tank capacity of 2 969 m<sup>3</sup> for recovered oil. The vessel is equipped with sweeping arms as well as with heavy duty ocean booms and offshore skimmer for mechanical recovery of oil. The primary area of operation of the vessel will be the Southern Black Sea.



## TRAINING TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICE

Twenty-two equipment operators from Baltic and North Sea EU member states participated in the first two **Equipment Assistance Service (EAS)** hands-on training sessions organised by EMSA on 6-8 June and 20-22 June, respectively, at the EAS stockpiles in Gdansk (Poland), and Aberdeen (UK). Before the training actually took place, registered participants had the opportunity to prepare by following the new e-learning module developed by EMSA. During the course, the participants became familiar with the main features of the various equipment sets by taking part in the actual deployment of the equipment on water. The feedback received was very positive and EMSA will work towards implementing the recommendations received to improve the next sessions.



## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXTENDS TO BLACK AND CASPIAN SEA REGIONS

The first steering committee of the **Black and Caspian Sea Regions project** met on 13-14 June at EMSA in Lisbon. Nineteen representatives from the project's beneficiary countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine) attended event. Representatives also joined from the European Commission's DG NEAR (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations), DG MOVE (for Mobility and Transport) and DG MARE (for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries), as well as observers from the Black Sea Memorandum of Understanding Secretariat and the Romanian Naval Authority. The Commission representatives outlined the vision and goal of the European Neighbourhood Policy, under which this project is being carried out. EMSA presented the planned project activities, including: vocational training for flag state surveyors; port state control seminars; learning more about EMSA tools including the use of CleanSeaNet and AIS information sharing. Beneficiary country representatives outlined their situations and spoke of the areas in which they hope to receive technical assistance and support. The steering committee concluded by endorsing an action list, which EMSA will take forward in the shape of a work plan by the end of September 2017. The implementation phase will take into consideration the financial resources made available by the project.

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**VACANCIES:** Communication officer (7/7/2017); Payroll officer (7/7/2017); Project officer for maritime security (10/7/2017); Maritime Support Services duty officer (SNE) (26/7/2017); Maritime Support Services officer (26/7/2017); Project officer for regulatory compliance (26/7/2017)

**PROCUREMENT:** Expressions of interest for an external database of experts (19/12/2020); H24 ICT operations services (31/7/2017); Provision of language training services for EMSA staff (31/7/2017); Provision of IP network connectivity to EMSA's datacentre with the FCCN research network (17/7/2017)