

## EMSA END-OF-YEAR ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD TAKES DYNAMIC APPROACH TO MULTI-ANNUAL PLANNING

On 17-18 November, EMSA's Administrative Board gathered in person at the Agency's headquarters for their last meeting of the year. The meeting kicked off with a dynamic workshop to exchange views on the priorities for 2024-2026. In groups, board members shared their views for the future of the Agency on the three areas of Sustainability, Safety & Security and Simplification & Digitalisation. Standing agenda items were also on the table on the second day. The adoption of the planning document for the 2023-2025 period was one of the most important. This is the green light from the Administrative Board to go ahead with the detailed annual programme of work for 2023 and the underlying budget. All of six Administrative Arrangements under consideration were also approved, allowing the Agency to proceed with the signature of draft agreements with a range of working partners, from DG ECHO – covering the working arrangement between the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre and EMSA's 24/7 Maritime Support Services in the context of maritime emergencies and requests for assistance from Member States – to the MAR-ICE network involving a three-party agreement including the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the *Centre de Documentation de Recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux* (Cedre) for the provision of 24/7 expert information service of chemicals. Finally, the Administrative and Finance Committee, which streamlines the work of the Administrative Board by providing opinions and recommendations on the more routine and technical administrative and financial items, was reappointed for a three-year term.



## EMSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPEARS BEFORE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TRANSPORT & TOURISM COMMITTEE IN ANNUAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

On 29 November, our Executive Director Maja Markovčić Kostelac participated in person in the annual exchange of views with the European Parliament's TRAN Committee which was webstreamed live. During the hearing, Ms Markovčić took the opportunity to express her thoughts on the Agency's progress to date particularly in light of the 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary: "I believe we have lived up and exceeded the expectations of decision makers when, right after the devastating accidents of the Erika and Prestige, 20 years ago EMSA was established. We are serving – and we continue to serve – safe, secure, and green maritime transport, in the EU and globally."



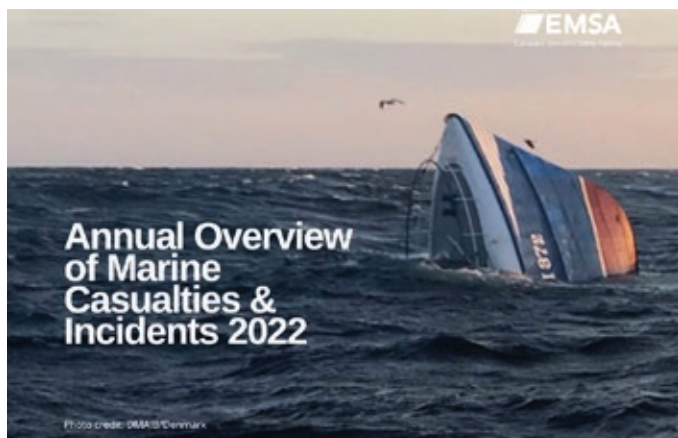
## IRISH LIGHTS MARITIME CONFERENCE: INTERNATIONAL LEADERS COME TOGETHER TO DEBATE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ROUTE TO 2050

EMSA's Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, was one of the keynote speakers at a major maritime safety conference in Dublin, organised by Irish Lights. 'Navigating to 2050: A Safe and Sustainable Maritime Future' featured speakers from shipping, the port sector, public administration, academia, and civil society. Ms Markovčić Kostelac briefed delegates on EMSA's activities, including new studies on alternative fuels (biofuels and ammonia), recently published guidance on shore-side electricity and the carriage of alternatively fuelled vehicles, and the main findings of the flagship European Maritime Safety (EMSAFE) report.



## ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS 2022 NOW PUBLISHED

EMSA has published the [Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents 2022](#) which presents statistical data on marine casualties and incidents for the 2014-2021 period, including accidents affecting the 27 European countries plus Iceland and Norway. This is one of the key thematic publications produced by EMSA, attracting great interest from the maritime sector and public in general. The statistics presented are extracted from data uploaded to the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) by the maritime accident investigation bodies of the EU Member States. This year the publication was significantly updated to be more accessible and user friendly, to include dynamic capabilities to download data and to provide better quality control options. General figures show a reduction of occurrences in 2021 compared with the occurrences before COVID-19 pandemic and a little increase of occurrences in 2021 compared with 2020. The total number of occurrences recorded in the EMCIP database over the 2014-2021 period stands at 21 173, representing an average of 2 647 marine casualties and incidents per year; and a total of 984 investigations launched during the same period.



## EMCIP MARINE CASUALTY PLATFORM USER GROUP MEETS AT EMSA PREMISES

EMSA held the 14<sup>th</sup> EMCIP User Group on 17 November in a presentational meeting which gathered 21 experts from 14 EU and EEA Member States. On the agenda were several topics related to the enhancement of the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP), familiarisation on the system and data quality. The delegates discussed the strength of and opportunities presented with the current system implementation, highlighting priorities for future development and providing input on the logic and ergonomics of the new functionalities. The Group discussed the enhancement of the EMCIP taxonomy to facilitate data reporting and analysis processes. EMSA recalled the familiarisation and awareness initiatives delivered in 2022 and presented the host of online resources that are available for EMCIP users, including video tutorials, manuals, guidelines, use case scenarios and a full training environment emulating the functionalities of the real system. New features allowing the connectivity on national systems to EMCIP via API were widely discussed...

... The delegates expressed interest in further developing the business intelligence tools embedded in EMCIP to facilitate the analysis of marine casualties and incidents. The Group agreed on the time plan governing the implementation of systematic checks of reported occurrences as well as other important initiatives to enhance data quality in the system. .



## PARTICIPANTS IN EMSA RPAS USER GROUP SHARE THEIR PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE OF THE RPAS SERVICE

The fifth RPAS user group gathered 74 participants from 22 Member States and EU Agencies. The meeting took place on 26-27 October, both virtually and in person, and provided an opportunity to share how RPAS services have contributed to their operational activities. In addition, breakout groups on the first day allowed participants to share the steps and challenges in the preparation phase before an RPAS deployment. The level of participation reflects the increasing number of Member States using RPAS services regularly. The Agency presented the growing portfolio of EMSA RPAS services and gave an overview of the missions carried out this year. There were several interesting presentations from users of the service, both from Member States and other EU Agencies showing the strong impact that RPAS has to a wide range of activities, ranging from emissions monitoring to maritime surveillance, and from fisheries control to pollution monitoring. The presentation from Estonia mentioned the use of RPAS services in a search and rescue mission in Latvian waters following a recent accident involving a private jet. RPAS services are being activated more frequently in connection with emergencies at sea.



## WORKSHOP ON MARITIME AUTONOMOUS SURFACE SHIPS (MASS) HELD AT EMSA

On 29 November, EMSA organised a Workshop on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) back-to-back with the European Commission High-Level Steering Group on MASS held on 30 November. Both meetings took place at EMSA's premises and online. In total, around 100 registered participants attended the meeting, out of which 26 experts attended the workshop in person. High level speakers from industry and administrations discussed and took stock of the recent developments at the IMO MSC 106 and further elaborated on future regulatory scenarios. In particular, participants were given insight into the ongoing EMSA study which is developing a Risk-Based Assessment Tool (RBAT) tailored for MASS applications. Participants from a wide maritime spectrum presented their activities and reflections, ranging from legal to technological issues and from remote control centres to artificial intelligence roles including space-based solutions for communications. The presentations served as a basis for the technical discussion that ensued during the workshop and shed further light on the complexities surrounding MASS.



## EMSA ACADEMY "CORE SKILLS FOR MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE COORDINATORS"

The first part-time online course on "Core skills for Maritime Search and Rescue Coordinators" was launched mid-November. The course falls within the activities of the EMSA Academy, as part of EMSA's capacity building portfolio. Some 34 participants from 17 EU and EEA States dedicated a maximum of two hours per day to the course activities for two weeks, fully supported by the MaKCs platform and delivered through the EMSA portal. Access to live lectures, meetings, the dedicated forum, as well as the group work and the deliverables for the participants, have all been integrated on the course page in MaKCs, allowing for dynamic and trackable learning experiences.

## CISE HANDS-ON TRAINING FOR NODE ADMINISTRATORS HELD FOR THE FIRST TIME IN PERSON IN LISBON

On 24-25 November, EMSA hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Node Administrator training, dedicated to the stakeholders' ICT specialists involved in the management of a CISE Node. During a **two-day training course**, the trainees obtained a full overview of the node's functionalities and the use of its administration console. They also practiced the actual exchange of data through CISE using simulators set up in a dedicated test environment. The training was attended by 14 experts representing five Member States (BG, CY, DE, PT and ES) and three EU Agencies (EMSA, EFCA, Frontex). EMSA provides training on a regular basis to support the stakeholders' experts in learning how to effectively manage their nodes and to be ready for the start of the operational exchange of information. The next training is planned to be held in spring 2023.



## MEMBER STATE AUTHORITIES PARTICIPATE IN AN ONLINE AWARENESS SESSION ON NEW IMS SEG, MOBILE APP AND ABM FUNCTIONALITIES

EMSA's Maritime Digital Services and capacity building teams organised a virtual awareness session for Member States focusing on the new SEG/IMS/ABM functionalities. The session, held online on 22 November, focused on new features and more advanced functionalities of the most recent SEG, IMS Mobile App and ABM software versions. Users from various authorities with a functional role in the maritime domain were introduced to all the features available in the global maritime traffic picture offered in the new SEG. The IMS Mobile App and ABM related services were presented in the context of operational scenarios. Additionally, updated information on the IMS Search and Rescue Toolbox was presented to the participants.



## CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS AMONG BLACK AND CASPIAN SEA COUNTRIES REINFORCED AS NEWLY LAUNCHED BCSEA II PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

The first steering committee meetings for the newly launched EU-funded **BCSEA II Project** were held on 22 November in hybrid mode. The beneficiary countries Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, representatives from DG NEAR, DG MARE, DG MOVE as well as observers from the Black Sea MoU Secretariat, the Bulgarian Maritime Administration and the Romanian Naval Authority participated in the event. The European Commission directorates informed the audience about the latest policy developments in the Black and Caspian Sea basins. All beneficiary countries expressed their appreciation to EMSA and the Contracting Authority DG NEAR for the continuous support in the areas of maritime safety, security and marine environment protection and highlighted the importance of the project in building up their national capacities, thereby fostering the appropriate implementation of the international instruments. The BCSEA II 2022-2023 Action Plan was discussed and endorsed by the Steering Committee members from the beneficiaries' side. The actions proposed both in a regional and bilateral perspective build upon the achievements under the previous BCSEA project and are the result of a series of coordination meetings with all beneficiaries following a bottom-up approach.



## FIRST SAFEMED V STEERING COMMITTEE BRINGS RENEWED COMMITMENT TO CAPACITY BUILDING AMONG NEIGHBOURING MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The first Steering Committee meeting of the **SAFEMED V project** which started in April this year was held on 23 November in hybrid mode. The meeting was attended by representatives of each of the project's beneficiary countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) as well as Türkiye as an observer. Representatives from relevant services of the European Commission (DG NEAR, DG MOVE, DG ENV and DG MARE) also attended and provided information on their respective initiatives and goals for the forthcoming years. The Med MoU Secretariat, REMPEC and the UfM also took part in the meeting as key stakeholders in the region. All beneficiary countries expressed their appreciation to EMSA and the

European Commission for the continuous support, recalling the successful outcome of the previous SAFEMED IV project and highlighting the importance of action to build up national capacity. In this way, the appropriate implementation of international instruments is being fostered the very sensitive Mediterranean Sea area. The overall action plan structured around the thematic areas of the Agency's 5-year strategy (sustainability, safety, security, simplification, surveillance) was introduced and endorsed by the Steering Committee, building on the achievements of the previous project and mapping the needs expressed by the beneficiaries.



## EMSA TAKES PART IN FESTIVE DIPLOMATIC BAZAAR ALL IN AID OF A GOOD CAUSE

Thank you to everyone who supported the EMSA stand at the 2022 Diplomatic Bazaar on 11-12 November, at the Lisbon Congress Centre. We were happy to once again receive President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the patron of the Bazaar, and to contribute to raising funds for institutions that support youths at risk. Thank you to all those staff members and spouses who kindly offered items to be sold, those who helped at the stand, the trainees who helped to set up and to sell our goodies, for spouses and kids who also helped. We raised just over €500 and we sold €400 worth of raffles. You have all helped to make the EMSA stand a great success!



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**VACANCIES:** Project Officer for Visits and Inspections - SNE (31/1/23); See website for more.

**PROCUREMENT:** Web maintenance and design services (9/1/23); Provision of graphic design and layout services (9/1/23); See website for more.