

EMSA UNVEILS NEW 5-YEAR STRATEGY TO TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 2020

“This EMSA 5-year strategy comes at just the right time: on the crest of a new wave that will have a big impact on the course of maritime transport and all the actors and lives that are linked to it”, these are the opening lines of EMSA’s Executive Director to the new strategy which will take the Agency through to the end of 2024. Five priority areas are highlighted – sustainability, safety, security, simplification and surveillance – together with the four key functions of service provider, reliable partner, international reference and knowledge hub. The new strategy reflects EMSA’s important role in the implementation of the European Commission’s priorities in all policy areas related to the seas. Both forward thinking and intentionally ambitious, it is the fruit of a joint exercise which gathered the views of EMSA’s main stakeholders, the Administrative Board and EMSA’s key asset, its staff. The [strategy is now available](#) for download from the EMSA website.



AUTONOMOUS SHIPPING: FOLLOWING THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE & OFFERING TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES

A workshop for sharing knowledge and exchanging information on Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) was held at EMSA on 25 November. In attendance were representatives from both national maritime administrations and the European Commission, as well as selected researchers. All participants provided valuable contributions on the topic for which EMSA has been acting as a facilitator to both enable and promote technical discussions. In this respect, the Agency commissioned a study in July 2019 (called SAFEMASS) which focuses on identifying hazards and emerging risks in two specific degrees of autonomy as well as on suggesting appropriate risk control options. A number of interesting projects are underway and expected to provide valuable input in the years to come. The workshop agenda covered the interim results of the SAFEMASS study, other ongoing projects, and the current state of play of the ongoing Regulatory Scoping Exercise at IMO.



The SAFEMASS study was commissioned by EMSA in July 2019 and is being conducted by DNV GL

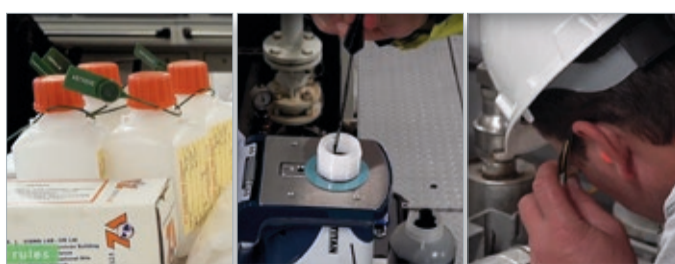
CYBERSECURITY IN THE MARITIME SECTOR: SHARING GOOD PRACTICES

On 26 November, EMSA hosted a cybersecurity workshop which focussed largely on the recently published report by ENISA, the EU Agency for Cybersecurity: ‘Port Cybersecurity - Good practices for cybersecurity in the maritime sector’. The workshop was attended by multiple experts from different stakeholder groups including port authorities, terminal operators, shipping companies and national competent authorities. Together they discussed the findings of the report and looked at the need for further work in the area of maritime cybersecurity, especially for ports. The workshop included lessons learnt from other transport modes. In particular, the possibility of setting up a similar structure to the Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (NIS Directive) was discussed. EMSA underlined the Agency’s commitment to supporting cybersecurity initiatives as evidenced in the new EMSA 5-Year Strategy adopted in November.



PREPARATIONS WELL UNDERWAY FOR THE UPCOMING 2020 SULPHUR LIMIT

On 11-13 November EMSA held a workshop on the preparations for the entering into force of the 0.50% sulphur limit in marine fuel from January 2020 in the EU and globally. The workshop was well attended with 44 participants representing 18 EU member states. A fully revised Sulphur Inspection Guidance document catering for the new rules was discussed and is to be released this month. Also discussed were: the updates to the EU risk-based targeting mechanism; the use of the THETIS-EU information system; and, the results from EMSA’s visits to the member states. The purpose is to ensure a uniform and harmonised implementation of the Sulphur Directive. Two other relevant EMSA services were also highlighted: the use of RPAS drones for emissions monitoring; and, the possibility of developing emission density maps based on maritime traffic information. EMSA has been supporting member state authorities in the run-up to 2020 - [by training Sulphur Inspectors](#) for example - in order to ensure they are well prepared to implement the new requirements from 1 January.



The training provided by EMSA included practical, hands-on experience from on board cruise ships docked in Lisbon

COAST GUARD AUTHORITIES HOLD ANNUAL PLENARY CONFERENCE IN ITALY

The Italian Chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) shared by the Italian Coast Guard and the Guardia di Finanza, with the support of the European Commission, held its annual plenary conference on 12-15 November in Venice. Participants included heads of coast guard authorities from the EU member states and Schengen associated countries. The EMSA’s delegation presented the results of the EMSA-ECGFF workshop on the topic of ‘a new environmental commitment’ (held in Lisbon on 27-28 February). Towards the end of the conference, the Italian chairmanship welcomed its hand-over to the French authorities for 2020.



EMSA ENCOURAGES DEBATE ON PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MARITIME SECTOR

On 5 November, EMSA held a lunchtime presentation on the topic of Gender Equality in the Maritime Sector with the keynote speaker, Jacqueline Smith from the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF). The presentation focused on general awareness of gender equality in the workplace and highlighted some inspirational stories as well as some of the most commonly encountered obstacles. This was followed by discussions on the many advantages of working in a gender balanced environment. EMSA’s Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, spoke specifically of the gender balance Action Plan in place at the Agency since July 2018.



‘POLEX 2019’ POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE HELD IN SPAIN

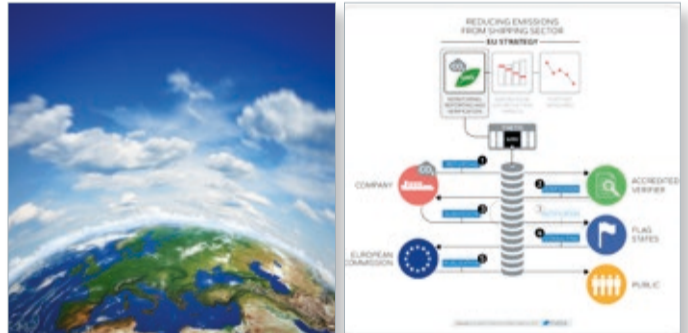
On 19-20 November EMSA took part in a [pollution response exercise](#) organised by the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency (SASEMAR) to test the collective response capabilities in the event of a large-scale oil spill in the Mediterranean. Several countries joined in the exercise including Portugal, Morocco and Spain. Participants had the opportunity to test different response strategies as well as to share and exchange technical know-how on marine pollution. The exercise scenario entailed a collision between two ships – a bulk carrier and a container ship – which led to the triggering of Search and Rescue operations. On the following day of the exercise, participants were faced with the scenario of a spill of 510m³ of fuel oil as well as with the decision of whether and where to grant a place of refuge. EMSA supported the exercise, deploying the [Algeciras-based Monte Anaga](#) standby response vessel and providing satellite images over the targeted area of pollution.



The Monte Anaga, standby oil spill pollution response vessel, was open to visitors on 19 November from the port of Malaga

GAINING A CLEARER PICTURE OF SHIP EMISSIONS FROM THETIS-MRV

The first informal workshop on the use of the [THETIS-MRV reporting platform](#) was held in EMSA on 22 November, co-organised by EMSA and the European Commission’s DG CLIMA and MOVE. The main objective of the meeting was to gather representatives from shipping companies and accredited verifiers to discuss the use and possible improvement of the THETIS-MRV platform, developed and operated by EMSA to cater for the reporting obligations of the MRV Regulation (EU) 2015/757. Among these monitoring, reporting and verification requirements are the [publishing of individual ships’ annual CO₂ emissions](#) and other relevant information. As in previous stakeholder consultations, the shipping industry, European Commission and EMSA all had the chance to share their views on the use and possible development of the platform.



THETIS-MRV is part of the EU’s efforts to include maritime transport in the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

NEW USERS IN ITALY GET TO EXPLORE THE MANY POSSIBILITIES OF EMSA’S MARITIME DATA SERVICES

EMSA delivered a practical, hands-on training covering several of the Agency’s maritime data services to the Guardia di Finanza, in Pomezia, on 20-21 November. The training is a part of an important knowledge exchange on the use of various data types: Earth Observation (EO) imagery and products, Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) and Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) algorithms. Along with exercises on the dedicated SafeSeaNet Ecosystem Graphical User Interface (SEG), participants had the chance to familiarise themselves with the different types of satellite imagery available as well as with the associated Copernicus Maritime Service ordering procedures.



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VACANCIES: Traineeship notice for Spring 2020 (19/12/2019); National Experts in Professional Training for Spring 2020 (16/1/2020)

PROCUREMENT: Contract for T-AIS data service in specific regions (9/12/2019); all for expressions of interest for an external expert database (19/12/2020); Call for expressions of interest for external experts to implement capacity building activities (31/10/2020). See website for more information.