

EMSA POLLUTION RESPONSE MEETINGS IN BULGARIA AND ROMANIA



Bernd Bluhm, Willem de Ruiter and Peter Mutafchiev discuss maritime safety issues in Bulgaria

On 2-3rd April, EMSA Executive Director, Willem de Ruiter and Bernd Bluhm, Head of Pollution Response, visited Bulgaria and Romania to present and discuss EMSA's latest procurement requirements for stand-by oil pollution response vessels. The information meetings were held in Varna, Bulgaria, and Constanta, Romania, and were arranged in close co-operation with the respective maritime authorities. The primary objective was to clarify the technical and contractual details of the tender with all interested parties. Bulgarian Minister of Transport, Peter Mutafchiev, chaired the Varna event, where wider issues relating to maritime safety and the prevention of pollution were also discussed. The meetings were attended by representatives of ship owners, oil spill response equipment manufacturers, and other relevant organisations.

NEW OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE VESSEL IN THE BALTIC SEA



The EMSA network of stand-by oil spill recovery vessels in the Baltic Sea has been strengthened recently with the entry into operational service of the *Tellus*. This vessel replaces the *Kasla*, which has now been removed from the Baltic "pool" of oil recovery

ships. The *Tellus* is a Swedish flagged oil products tanker, which was built in 2006 and is owned by Sirius Shipping. It has a recovered oil storage capacity of over 10 000 m³. More detailed information on the vessel is available at:

http://www.emsa.europa.eu/Docs/opr/tellus_1eaflet_nov2007.pdf

NEW EMPOLLEX EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

EMSA is making final preparations to begin its new Marine Pollution Expert Exchange Programme (EMPOLLEX) in June 2008. Via this programme, national experts from participating countries will be given the opportunity to travel to other countries to gain or share professional experience in marine pollution preparedness and response. They will be given the opportunity to learn different response techniques; study the approaches taken within other services or organisations; follow training modules and/or attend workshops and exercises. As part of the programme, experts will be asked to attend a one day EMSA workshop in Lisbon, where they will be given an overview of the work at European level in the field of marine pollution preparedness and response. Through the programme, EMSA aims to promote exchange of best practice and enhance networking and cooperation between participating states. More details on the programme will be published shortly on the EMPOLLEX website at:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/empollex>

FIRST PSC SEMINAR HELD IN LISBON

The second New Entrant Seminar to be organised by EMSA and the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (Paris MoU) secretariat was held from 14-18th April in Lisbon. This was the first such seminar that EMSA has organised "in-house." The main objective was to improve and harmonise the level of professional competency of Paris MoU Port State Control Officers (PSCOs). During the 5-day course, 49 participants from 17 Paris MoU Member States studied and discussed in-depth scenarios relating to PSC procedures. The seminars are part of a new regime developed for the Paris MoU, which includes distant learning modules and aims to provide both initial training for new PSCOs and refresher courses for those with experience. Four seminars are planned in 2008 and five more are already planned for 2009.

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