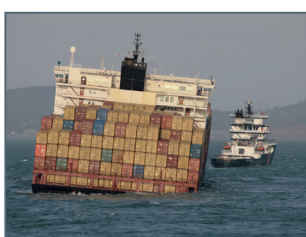


EMSA'S ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD CHARTS THE WAY FORWARD

During its last meeting of 2013, EMSA's **administrative board** agreed on many important issues that will carry weight in the upcoming months and years. The meeting held on 13-14 November occurred in an atmosphere EMSA's Executive Director, Markku Mylly, described as "very positively minded". The board adopted the work programme for 2014 and started to discuss the work programme for 2015. It also adopted EMSA's new 5-year strategy, and an action plan on preparedness and response to oil and gas installations.

COORDINATED ACTION TO ADDRESS PLACES OF REFUGE FOR VESSELS IN DISTRESS



On 25-26 November, EMSA facilitated the first ever EU-wide **table top exercise on places of refuge**, with the participation of more than 50 people. Almost all member states were represented at the exercise, which was hosted by the Port of Rotterdam in the

World Port Centre in the heart of Rotterdam. The Exercise Director was Hugh Shaw, the UK SoSRep, who was supported by a planning group drawn from Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Ireland, Malta and the Netherlands. The scenario for the "Ocean Traveller" exercise was a collision between a tanker and a container vessel in the southern North Sea. During the exercise, participants had the opportunity to exchange views on reporting and coordinating the incident, notification of dangerous or polluting goods, decision making and intervention, as well as financial guarantees and liabilities, assisted by contributions from a number of independent experts in these fields. Finally, the participants were asked to consider how their responses might be different if the collision had occurred in waters outside of the jurisdiction of any one member state. The results from the exercise will be available in the New Year and will inform the European Commission's consideration of possible revisions to Directive 2002/59/EC.

EQUASIS WELCOMES BRAZIL INTO ITS SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE



On 27 November, Brazil officially signed the Equasis Memorandum of Understanding. Brazil is now the ninth contributing member of the Equasis Supervisory Committee together with France, EMSA, Canada, Japan, Korea, Norway, the UK and the USA. On the same day, an agreement also was signed between the Caribbean MoU on Port State Control and the Equasis Management Unit. Currently, six out of the ten PSC regions worldwide provide data to Equasis: the Paris MoU, the Tokyo MoU, the US Coast Guard, the Indian Ocean MoU, Viña del Mar (South America) and the Caribbean MoU.

EMSA CONSOLIDATES OIL SPILL RESPONSE CAPABILITIES



EMSA has shifted resources to have a contracted oil spill response vessel dedicated to the Adriatic Sea area, following the signature of a series of contracts covering **four geographical areas**. EMSA's Executive Director, Markku Mylly explained the importance of dedicated coverage in the Adriatic Sea given its dense traffic and offshore installations. A vessel currently involved in bunkering near the Italian city of Trieste will be fitted with oil spill response equipment for this task. The three remaining contracts replace existing EMSA contracts due to expire in 2014: a pool of two tankers, trading around the east coast of the UK will cover the northern North Sea and have a stockpile of pollution response equipment in Sunderland; another two tankers, trading around the west coast of Ireland, will cover the North Atlantic and have their equipment based in Cobh; a tanker with on board equipment, based in Piraeus and trading in Greek waters, will cover the Aegean Sea. All vessels are expected to be operational by mid-2014.

INTEGRATED MARITIME DATA PLATFORM READY TO GO LIVE EARLY 2014



On 8 November, users of EMSA's **Integrated Maritime Data Environment (IMDatE)** met to give feedback on the integrated maritime services being delivered by EMSA. The new IMDatE platform can combine different types of maritime data coming from EMSA applications, as well as new sources such as satellite AIS and data provided by end-users. The resulting services are specifically tailored to user needs. The platform is already being used by several EU bodies (pictured above: EFCA, Frontex, EU NAVFOR), and was made available to member states for pilot testing as of April 2013. At the meeting, the nine member states involved in the pilot project gave positive feedback on their experiences to date. In early 2014, the final version of the platform will go live. Volunteer member states are still welcome to join.

ON THE WEBSITE

Careers: National experts in professional training (Deadline: 10/01/2014) EMSA traineeship spring 2014 (Deadline: 3/01/2013)