

LEARNING FROM ACCIDENTS INVOLVING CONTAINER VESSELS

Over an eight-year period, 2171 marine casualties and incidents involving container vessels were reported by accident investigation bodies into the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP). Drawing lessons from this data is the objective of EMSA's latest **safety analysis** which focuses specifically on the investigations involving this type of ship which plays a key role in international trade. Among others, six vessel-specific issues have been identified from various safety investigations: lack of proper cargo documentation; handling of specific goods; response to fire in containers; unsafe stowing conditions leading to loss of containers; working practices to handle containers on board; and response of Coastal Authorities following major marine casualties. The analysis also considered the remedial actions suggested to prevent similar occurrences in the future, either proposed by an accident investigation body, or taken by the relevant stakeholders, like the ships' companies and maritime authorities. In addition to the extensive technical analysis of the factors contributing to accidents and incidents involving container vessels, a more compact 'summary report' is available to present specific safety issues with a potential horizontal impact to container vessel safety.



Grounding of Yusuf Cepnioglu on Mykonos Island, 8/3/2014). Image credit: HBMCI – Greece

EMSA CARRIES OUT FIRST REMOTE INSPECTION OF A RECOGNISED ORGANISATION

In September, EMSA carried out its first remote inspection of a recognised organisation. The recognised organisation in question is a classification society operating worldwide with its maritime headquarters in Europe. One of the main challenges of the exercise was to adapt to a new working arrangement and to accommodate for the interaction of staff working in different locations across Europe. The European Commission and another EU member state also participated in the remote inspection which was carried out over several days. EMSA officers - with the help of the agency's events team - made the best use of the available technology and platforms to maximise the effectiveness of the exercise. The inspected RO had a high level of digitalisation and facilitated the inspection also from the technical point of view. This first experience confirmed that time management is even more critical during the discussions, especially given the complexity of the topics addressed. During these uncertain times, the ability to conduct remote inspections helps to minimise the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the agency's programme of visits and inspections. It is expected that, while field activity remains difficult due to restrictions, EMSA will continue to prepare and conduct remote visits and inspections.



POLLUTION RESPONSE IN CENTRAL MED REINFORCED WITH M/T ADELIA

M/T ADELIA (IMO 9523457) was successfully accepted into stand-by service and is now part of the EMSA Network of Stand-by Oil Spill Recovery Vessels. This is the result of an accurate preparation phase to accommodate on board a full set of state-of-the-art equipment for pollution response. M/T ADELIA is based in Valletta, Malta, and its primary operational area is the Central Mediterranean Sea. Adelia has an onboard storage heated capacity of 7,309 m³ for recovered oil. The ship is equipped with two main arrangements for mechanical recovery that comprise sweeping arms and offshore booms with a high capacity skimmer system. The recovery operations are supported by radar-based oil slick detection systems and FLIR IR Camera. In addition, the vessel is also equipped with a spraying system for at-sea dispersant application capabilities, supported by a dedicated dispersant stockpile of 200 tons onshore.



EMSA ANNUAL MEETINGS WITH THE POLLUTION RESPONSE COMMUNITY HELD ONLINE

The 14th meeting of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR) and the 10th Pollution Response Services User Group (PRS-UG) were held for the first time online on 13-14 October. Fifty marine pollution experts from EU, EEA/EFTA, European Enlargement Countries and the European Commission (DG ECHO) joined EMSA online to participate in this unique platform provided at EU level, aiming to exchange information, share good practices and define relevant priority actions on topics of common interest across the EU. The two meetings addressed operational updates regarding EMSA's oil and HNS pollution response services, discussed progress made on the various projects conducted under the CTG MPPR work programme, exchanged experiences gained from recent incidents and shared information on relevant marine pollution projects conducted at national, regional and EU levels.



USERS OF EMSA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES FOR MEMBER STATES GATHER FOR VIRTUAL MEET-UP

IMS points of contact and member state representatives met for the fifteenth time on 22 October; but for the very first time via videoconference. A number of important issues related to the evolution of the service, data and tools were discussed, among them: new developments and an ever-growing use of interfaces (SEG, Mobile App) and tools, like **Automated Behaviour Monitoring**. Information on the cloud-based Long Term Storage (LTS), as well as the CISE state-of-play, were provided. Participants discussed the potential scenarios for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and maritime analytics, following a demonstration of the new, prototype advanced analytics tool.



EMSA PARTNERS WITH WMU FOR NEW FLAGSHIP PROJECT

On 15 October, EMSA virtually hosted Dr Cleopatra Doumbia-Henry, President of the World Maritime University, and her team in a kick-off meeting for services to support the EMSA Academy. As EMSA's contractor, WMU will support the Agency in the development of the foundations and key aspects for the Academy; a flagship project which marks the beginning of a new journey for Capacity Building and EMSA user communities. In principle, the Academy aims at delivering professional development programmes for selected job profiles underpinned by a new training concept based on a structured and modular approach for the design, development and delivery of training activities. Through the EMSA Academy, the Agency will strengthen its role as facilitator and service provider by supporting the member states in meeting their obligations stemming from international and EU legislation regarding the training of their staff.



EMSA ED MARKS OPENING OF NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AT ENIDH

EMSA's Executive Director opened the new academic year of the local Infante Dom Henrique maritime academy in a speech given on 14 October at the invitation of the ENIDH's President Prof Luis Baptista. EMSA frequently gives lectures to ENIDH students in areas under the Agency's remit and receives student visits on a regular basis. The ENIDH is the only academic institution in Portugal to offer education and training leading to the certification of officers under the STCW Convention.



BELGIAN PORT OF ANTWERP USING EMSA RPAS FOR POLLUTION MONITORING

Port authorities in Antwerp, Belgium, are making use of EMSA's Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) to support their day-to-day monitoring of port operations and rapid response to pollution incidents in the port area. The RPAS will enable the authorities to inspect at a distance their complex port environment which extends over an area of some 120km². The specific RPAS being employed is a highly flexible, lightweight Indago quadcopter operated by a pilot from EMSA's contractor, Nordic Unmanned. The focus is on using unmanned technology to help port authorities conduct safe and efficient surveillance of ship and port operations as well as to respond to safety and pollution incidents rapidly. The operation which has been running since the beginning of October continues until the end of the year and is the first time EMSA has provided RPAS services for the purpose of port monitoring.



Image credit: Port of Antwerp

EQUASIS EDITORIAL BOARD MEETING GOES AHEAD ONLINE

For the first time, the Equasis Editorial Board meeting took place via video conference. The meeting held on 9 October was hosted by the Equasis Management Unit run by EMSA. The 36th Editorial Board meeting gathered 31 participants from 20 data providers. The meeting proved to be very constructive and fruitful in view of all the comments and interventions and successfully completed some of the deliberations included in the agenda. Among other issues, the action plan for 2020, the long-term strategy (2021 – 2026), and the programme of events for the "Coming of Age" 21st anniversary of Equasis, were discussed".



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VACANCIES: CISE ICT Security Expert (16/11/2020); CISE Vacancies Architect (16/11/2020)

PROCUREMENT: Meeting room equipment, maintenance and support (24/11/2020). See website for more.