

EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY CONFERENCE: SAFETY FIRST

The European Maritime Safety Conference: Safety First took place at EMSA's headquarters on 8 December 2025. The conference, which was attended by distinguished speakers and maritime stakeholders from here in the EU and beyond, also launched the second edition of the European Maritime Safety Report (EMSAFE). Opening the conference, the Executive Director of EMSA, Maja Marković Kostelac, said that: "With today's Conference and the launch of EMSAFE, we are reminded that maritime safety is not a static achievement but a continuous commitment. Our seas connect us, sustain us, and empower Europe's economic and strategic future. Ensuring their safety is therefore not only a technical obligation—it is a shared responsibility that binds institutions, industry, and society together." During the conference, delegates heard keynote speakers and distinguished panellists, including the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, Arsenio Dominguez, the Minister for Agriculture and Maritime Affairs of Portugal, José Manuel Fernandes, and Polish State Secretary at the Ministry of Infrastructure, Arkadiusz Marchewka, discuss and debate current and future topics related to maritime safety in the EU. The conference was broadcast live on YouTube [and can be viewed again here](#) (on YouTube; by clicking on the link [you accept the terms and conditions](#) of YouTube.com).



Scenes from the European Maritime Safety Conference: Safety First: the contributors to the EMSAFE report join the Executive Director onstage, and the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization addresses the conference.

EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY REPORT LAUNCHED

The European maritime safety framework continues to be one of the most robust in the world, even as seaborne trade volumes and passenger numbers rise. That's according to the new edition of the European Maritime Safety Report. The second edition of this report, which presents a comprehensive overview of maritime safety in the EU, confirms the strong performance of the port State control system at Member State level, with more than 14,000 vessel inspections carried out each year in EU ports. This regime is complemented by legislative initiatives like the specific EU survey regime for ro-pax and high-speed craft, and the obligation for Member States to report and monitor accidents centrally, both for analysis and for the development of preventive actions. The report reveals that, despite a 16 % reduction in accidents recorded since 2019, several maritime safety concerns remain to be addressed. Fishing vessels are particularly vulnerable to accidents, making them a priority for enhanced safety measures. These vessels account for 17 % of the total number of accidents recorded each year under the scope of applicable EU legislation, and 60 % of the total number of vessels lost. The misdeclaration of hazardous cargo has decreased by 50 % since 2019, reflecting progress in enforcement and awareness, although compliance gaps persist in relation to a small number of vessels. Future safety challenges and opportunities identified in the report also include the integration of alternative fuels and sources of power for shipping, while ensuring ship safety. The report, including a summary in 24 EU languages [is available to download through EMSA's website](#).



EMSA's Head of Safety Unit, Santiago Encabo, presents the European Maritime Safety Report (EMSAFE).

WORKSHOP ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

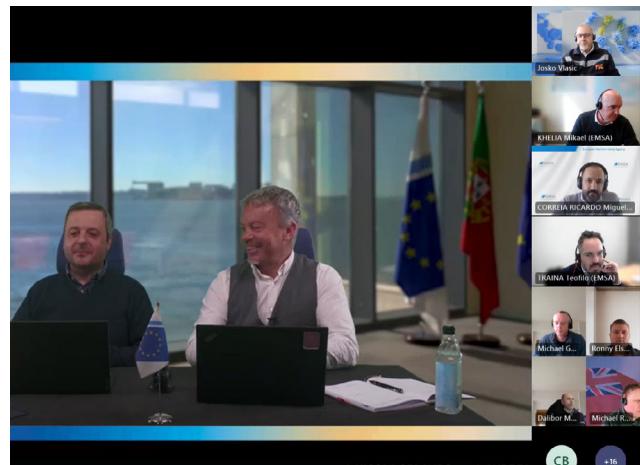
On 26-27 November, EMSA held its first workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Accident Investigation (AI4AI) bringing together over 30 participants from Member States and the European Commission. The event featured insightful presentations from experts at the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology at the European Commission, the European Aviation Safety Agency, the Instituto Superior de Educação e Ciências (Lisbon), and private industry. Accident Investigation Bodies were introduced to the regulatory framework governing artificial intelligence, including key definitions and the requirements for trustworthiness and compliance. Participants also explored practical applications of AI in the context of accident investigation through demonstrations of existing tools, platforms, and real case studies. The Group was also introduced to techniques and approaches of using AI in aviation safety. These discussions highlighted how AI can enhance data quality, support accident analysis, and streamline investigative processes. Importantly, the workshop provided a valuable forum for participants to talk through their needs and share feedback on how AI could support and improve their day-to-day activities. Many thanks to the all the speakers, including Milena Machala from the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology at the European Commission, Professor Luis Santos from ISEC Lisbon, Ioannis Karatsivoulis, Florent Morel, and Guillame Soudain from the European Aviation Safety Agency, and Vladimir Ponomarev from EVI Safety Technology B.V.



The workshop on artificial intelligence in accident investigation attracted participants from all over the EU

PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES FOR PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS 2025 CONCLUDES AT EMSA

The 6th edition of the “Principles and Techniques for Port State Control Officers 2025” Curriculum has concluded at EMSA, ending the first year of delivery of the curriculum developed by the Agency in cooperation with the Paris MoU Secretariat in support of the revised Paris MoU Training Policy. Over the course of six cycles, this programme has brought updates and harmonisation to new and experienced Port State Control Officers, providing practical and technical insight into key principles, inspection techniques, and the consistent application of the Paris MoU Port State Control procedures. Every curriculum is composed by an online part-time session and a final one delivered in-person in EMSA’s Lisbon headquarters. To date, approximately 190 professionals have been trained, contributing to the strengthening of inspection capacity and the promotion of maritime safety, environmental protection, and regulatory compliance to challenge substandard shipping.



Training took place at EMSA’s headquarters and online for maritime professionals.

emsaeuropa.eu

VACANCIES: Officer - Legal Services (AD6) (08/01/2026) See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: LRPAS Services for Emissions Monitoring (03/03/2026). Provision of satellite images and value added products for Maritime Surveillance based on Sentinel-2 sensors (23/03/2026). See website for more.