

NEWLY RE-ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT VISITS EMSA

On Tuesday 23 September, newly re-elected President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz visited EMSA and its neighbouring agency, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). The visit followed on from President Schulz' first visit to the EU agencies on 20 June 2013 when, along with Mayor Costa and the two agency directors, he inaugurated Praça Europa, the square on which the agencies are located. The visit included a tour of EMSA where Mr Schulz got a first hand view of the [Maritime Support Services](#) operations centre as well as a short press conference.



The visit to the operations centre was followed by a brief press conference

PREPARING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE REVISED SULPHUR DIRECTIVE

On 22-23 September, EMSA hosted a workshop for member states on the implementation of the revised Sulphur Directive. With 1 January only a little over three months away, EMSA presented the EU information system currently under development which will be used as a harmonised platform for reporting and exchanging information. The system was developed at the request of member states following a cooperation agreement with the European Commission's DG Environment and should be operational by 1 January 2015. EMSA also presented draft inspection guidelines to be used by Sulphur Inspectors to ensure harmonised and effective checks throughout the EU. Environmental and maritime authorities from the member states participated in the workshop. The participants welcomed the work of the agency and will strive to finalise the work before the entry into force of the revised [Sulphur Directive](#).



A COURSE ON OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF AERIAL SURVEILLANCE

On 11-12 September, EMSA hosted the fourth training course on 'the use of surveillance systems for marine pollution detection and assessment', organised under the work programme of the Consultative Technical Group on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR). The course focused on operational aspects of aerial surveillance: how to use aircraft and satellite to detect pollution, to estimate the product and the quantity, to make a link with a polluter, and to facilitate follow-up through standard reporting procedures. For the first time, information on legal elements related to the use of evidence were also covered. Some 46 participants from 21 European countries attended the course, the majority of whom were aerial operators, although there were a few junior investigators and prosecutors present. A key principle of the training is that experienced member states' experts provide the training and share their expertise with less experienced participants. This constitutes an important benefit of the course, enabling the dissemination of best practices and networking between counterparts from different administrations.



EMSA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES TO SUPPORT ACTION TO TACKLE THE EBOLA VIRUS

A new function has been added to the [integrated maritime data services](#) giving factual information to the European Commission about vessels leaving Ebola infected countries. With this information, the Commission can tell which of these vessels are now in and around European waters or bound for European ports to better coordinate response efforts.



Inbound and outbound vessel traffic data 23-29/09/2014

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STUDY:

Integrated Maritime Policy and the SafeSeaNet Ecosystem