NEWSLETTER

EMSA European Maritime Safety Agency

QUALITY SHIPPING. SAFER SEAS. CLEANER OCEANS

LEARNING HOW SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS CAN BE USED TO DETECT POLLUTION

EMSA hosted the sixth training session on the use of surveillance systems for marine pollution detection and assessment on 15-17 May. The course covered the operational and legal aspects of aerial surveillance, oil spill detection and assessment sensors and techniques, as well as the use of surveillance as evidence. It was given by experts from the relevant administrations in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and EMSA. Thirty-three participants from across Europe attended the training, including aerial surveillance operators and pilots, Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre representatives and coast guard experts. The participants also had the opportunity to visit an airbase of the Portuguese Air Force in Montijo to view the maritime surveillance aircraft and marine pollution recon sensors used.



ADRIATIC 2018 - OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE COORDINATED BY CROATIA

EMSA took part in the oil spill response exercise 'Adriatic 2018' on 22-24 May. The exercise - organised by partners from Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia, and facilitated by the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism - took place in the Kaštela Bay, outside Split, Croatia. The exercise scenario envisaged a collision between two vessels, resulting in an oil spill. The pollution response assets deployed by EMSA comprised an oil spill response vessel and one trawl-net equipment set from the Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) arrangement located in Ravenna, Italy. This standalone system was successfully deployed from the Croatian navy vessel Faust Vrančic. EMSA's pollution response assets regularly participate in at-sea response exercises in order to ensure a high level of preparedness and cooperation should a serious oil spill occur.



EMSA HOSTS ECSA SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Safety and Environment Committee (SEC) of the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) took place on 31 May-1 June at EMSA's premises in Lisbon. Similar to past years, the ECSA committee and EMSA representatives had the chance to exchange technical views on topics of common interest. Among those covered, particular attention was given to EMSA's Guidance on the Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) and to the current state of play of the THETIS-MRV system.



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PRESIDENT OF MALTA RECEIVES WARM WELCOME AT EMSA

The President of Malta, H.E. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca visited EMSA on 16 May in the framework of a state visit to Portugal. The delegation included officials from the ministry of economy, investment and small businesses, the ministry of foreign affairs and trade promotion, the ministry of tourism, and the embassy of Malta in Portugal. During the visit, Markku Mylly and senior management presented EMSA's tasks and activities, and discussed topics of mutual interest. A visit to the Maritime Support Services control room gave Ms Preca the opportunity to see the RPAS drone surveillance operations currently available for member states as well as the Integrated Maritime Services provided by EMSA. These services support member state activities in a wide range of areas like vessel traffic monitoring, search and rescue, pollution monitoring and response, maritime surveillance and law enforcement. Ms Preca also met with the Maltese staff working at EMSA.



EMSA PARTICIPATES IN PARIS MOU ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

EMSA participated in the Paris Memorandum of Understanding's 51st committee meeting held in Cascais, Portugal on 7-10 May in its role as technical advisor to the European Commission. EMSA is leading two taskforces: firstly, in its capacity as THETIS database manager; and, secondly as developer and provider of eLearning and Rulecheck tools. The committee took note of progress made by EMSA and Denmark in the electronic transmission of data related to ship certificates from the Danish Flag State database to THETIS. Also, based on a recommendation from EMSA, the committee agreed to issue a warning concerning the new requirements of MARPOL Annex VI, which come into force on 1 January 2020.



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VACANCIES: Project Officer for Pollution Response Services (deadline: 11/6/2018)

PROCUREMENT: Provision of satellite images and value added products for maritime surveillance based on SAR and optical sensors (deadline: 28/6/2018); Contracts for RPAS VTOL services for emissions monitoring and maritime surveillance (deadline: 18/6/2018); see website for more.