

## **EMSA Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2014**

### **Assessment by the EMSA Administrative Board**

The Administrative Board's assessment covers three main areas: strategic achievements, operational achievements and the management of the Agency. The assessment takes into account the relevant legal, strategic, and resource framework, as well the applicable annual work programme.

#### **a) Strategic achievements**

The Administrative Board appreciates the structure of the CAAR2014, and notably the representation of both the legal basis and the multi-annual perspective throughout "Part I Achievements of the year".

Each activity is clearly linked to the relevant articles of the Agency's Founding Regulation, establishing the consistency of the activities with the tasks assigned to the Agency by the legislator. In addition, alignment with the Agency's 5-year Strategy is highlighted through the references for each activity to the relevant multi-annual strategic objectives.

In 2014 EMSA added value for Member States and the Commission in each of the four strategic areas of activity of the Agency, as set out in its 5-year strategy:

- **Standards, Rules and Implementation:** EMSA enhanced its work in cooperation with Member States and the Commission for the development and implementation of EU safety standards and regulations in the maritime sector.
- **Monitoring, Surveillance and information sharing:** EMSA continued to provide reliable and efficient information services for the benefit of the EU maritime cluster and, where appropriate, for the use of other communities.
- **Environmental challenges and response:** EMSA continued to support Member States' efforts for mitigating shipping-related environmental risks and responding to environmental accidents in the maritime and offshore sector.
- **Information, knowledge and training:** EMSA provided support, shared best practices and distributed information within the maritime cluster.

## **b) Operational Achievements**

In each of the strategic areas, more than 50 key institutional stakeholders both in and beyond the EU benefitted substantially from EMSA products and services.

### **Standards, Rules and Implementation:**

All EU ship-safety initiatives and relevant negotiations at IMO were supported by EMSA's very proficient technical expert assistance, while the effort of EMSA in the programme of visits and inspections has fed into the Commission's valuable initiatives to assess and fine-tune maritime legislation. Special emphasis was given to passenger ship safety related initiatives. (Activities 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5)

### **Monitoring, Surveillance and information sharing:**

The process of data integration and incorporating new data sources and technologies continued to add value for a fast growing number of end-users showing increasing interest in tailor-made services. The maturation of the IMDatE platform was a remarkable key achievement for the data integration process. On the whole, the Agency's systems are a genuine pivotal part of Member State monitoring, information and surveillance systems, and benefit a steadily expanding list of other EU agencies and bodies where exemplary synergies with EMSA have been identified. These synergies translate into substantial cost savings for the EU. (Activities 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.5, 5.2)

### **Environmental challenges and response:**

Services for the prevention of, preparedness and response to, pollution caused by ships as well as response to marine pollution caused by oil and gas installations have become even more adaptable and flexible in order to increasingly reflect regional capacity, requirements and risk. The ongoing high priority dialogue on air pollution between the key stakeholders – the Member States, the Industry and the Commission – received unique and tailored technical support from the Agency. The very swift development and launch of THETIS-S to support the implementation of the Sulphur Directive was one of the highlights. (Activities 2.3, 4.6, 4.7, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

### **Information, knowledge and training:**

Member State growing demand for specialised training, e-learning or ad-hoc technical assistance from EMSA is evidence of the Agency's added value in this area, as is the Commission's increasing reliance on EMSA for the implementation, in the maritime safety field, of EU policies regarding candidate and potential candidate countries, and neighbouring countries, channelled through the IPA, SAFEMED III and TRACECA II projects. (Activities 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.8, 5.1, 5.3)

The Administrative Board also appreciates the side-by-side representation of planned and actual output for each activity, allowing for comparison of objectives and results and the conclusion that the Work Programme 2014 was implemented appropriately.

### **c) Management**

The resources (staff and budget) used by the Agency are in line with the activities developed in the Work Programme 2014. The increasingly significant weight of project financed activities in the Agency's portfolio is noted. Variations between planned and actual resources were marginal and justified, and correspond to the flexibility needed for the efficient management of resources and tasks during the course of 2014.

The overall execution is acceptable. However, the Administrative Board takes note of the commitment execution of 94.78% in 2014, below the 95% target of the Commission, resulting in the penalty applied by the Commission on Draft Budget 2016.

The Key Performance Indicators used by the Agency to measure the continuity and quality of the EMSA external services have met their respective targets overall. Cases in which targets have not been met have been duly justified.

Based on information outlined in Parts II, III and IV of the CAAR2014 and on the work of the Administrative and Finance Committee throughout the year, the Administrative Board notes and welcomes the Agency's exhaustive and thorough approach to the follow-up of the outcome of audits by the various auditing bodies through a closely monitored action plan which is firmly on track; as well as the fact that the desk review audit carried out in January and February 2015 has not led to any preliminary findings by the European Court of Auditors.

Furthermore, the Administrative Board notes that measures are in place to maintain an appropriate risk and control environment and provide an appropriate level of assurance. Building blocks of assurance leading to the Declaration of the Authorising Officer are in place, as are measures to address any serious management and control weaknesses identified. The reservation introduced and communicated to the European Court of Auditors concerning the ownership of APM equipment and pre-fitting under the call option system, following the unforeseen bankruptcy of one of EMSA's contractors, as well as the conclusion that the reservation did not have an impact on the declaration of assurance, have been noted.

### **Conclusion**

The Administrative Board of the European Maritime Safety Agency concludes with satisfaction that the Agency's objectives were met in accordance with the relevant annual work programme and the overall multi-annual strategic framework. The European synergies created by EMSA are a good basis for helping to address the current and future challenges for the Coast Guards and Maritime Authorities of the EU Member States such as the migration situation in the Mediterranean, within the context of EMSA's mandate in accordance with its Founding Regulation (EC) No 1406/2002.

Done at Lisbon, 2 June 2015

Signed

  
Frans Van Rompuy  
Chairman of the Administrative Board