

## LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN MARITIME TRANSPORT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

On 1 September 2021, EMSA, along with the European Environment Agency, launched the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report - the first in-depth overview of the impact of maritime transport on the environment in the EU. The report, the first of its kind, analyses the current state of the environmental impact of maritime transport across a range of environmental indicators, including air emissions, air pollution, underwater noise, marine litter, non-indigenous species, and port-based activities. The report also provides a full analysis of current EU and international environmental legislation in the field of maritime transport, and analyses current and future solutions for greater sustainability. It highlights both the challenges and the opportunities facing the shipping sector, which are of relevance to fostering cooperation at European level.



The Executive Director of EMSA, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, welcomes guests to the launch of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report

The report shows that ships produce 13.5 % of all greenhouse gas emissions from transport in the EU, behind emissions from road transport (71 %) and aviation (14.4 %). Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from ships calling in European ports amounted to approximately 1.63 million tonnes in 2019, a figure which is expected to fall further over the coming decades due to stricter environmental rules and measures. Maritime transport is estimated to have contributed to the fact that underwater noise levels in EU waters have more than doubled between 2014 and 2019 and has been responsible for half of all non-indigenous species introduced into European seas since 1949. However, even though the volume of oil transported by sea has been steadily increasing, only eight accidental medium to large oil tanker spills out of a worldwide total of 62 occurred in EU waters over the past decade. The joint report assesses the current state of emerging maritime transport sustainability solutions, including alternative fuels, batteries and onshore power supply, and provides a comprehensive picture of their uptake in the EU. It also outlines future challenges posed by climate change for the industry, including the potential impact of rising sea levels on ports. The report [is available to download from EMSA's website](#) through a dedicated hub, which also contains [the main findings of the study in 24 EU languages](#).

## HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE MARKS THE LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN MARITIME TRANSPORT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT AT EMSA

A high-level conference marked the launch of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report at EMSA's headquarters, with some guests gathering in Lisbon, and others joining online. The event was opened by the Executive Director of EMSA, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, and the Executive Director of the European Environment Agency, Hans Bruyninckx. The President of the Republic of Portugal, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, sent a video message, as did the European Commissioner for the Environment, Virginijus Sinkevičius. The Chair of the Transport and Tourism Committee of the European Parliament, Karima Delli, joined the meeting live by videolink. Keynote speeches were given by Henrik Hololei, Director-General of DG MOVE at the European Commission, and by Veronica Manfredi, Director Quality of Life at DG Environment at the European Commission. The event was closed with reflections from the EU Transport Commissioner, Adina Vălean.



Video message from the President of the Republic of Portugal, His Excellency Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa at the launch of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report on 1 September

A highlight of the event was a panel discussion moderated by the two Executive Directors, which included contributions from Vassilis Demetriades, Shipping Deputy Minister of Cyprus, Dr Nuno Sanchez Lacasta, President of the Portuguese Environment Agency, Claes Berglund, President of ECSA, Henk Prins, Chair of the Waterborne Technology Platform, and Dr Monica Verbeek, Executive Director of Seas at Risk. Panellists took questions from the audience, both present in Lisbon and online, and discussed and debated the way ahead for maritime sustainability in the interactive session entitled "A green agenda for shipping."



The panel discussion at the launch of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report

## VISIT OF EUROPEAN TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER ADINA VĂLEAN TO EMSA

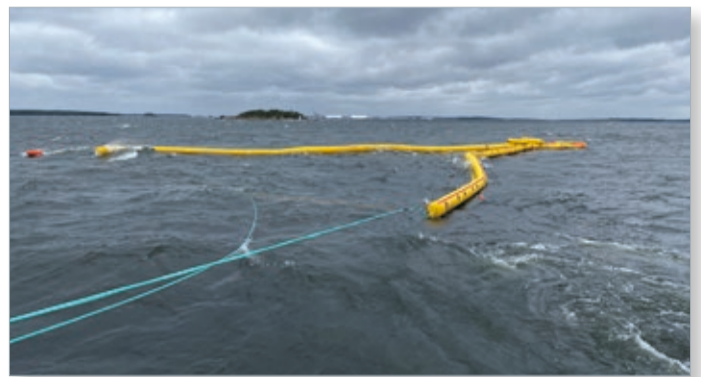
In the framework of the launch of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report, the European Commissioner for Transport, Adina Vălean, visited EMSA on 1 September. Commissioner Vălean held bilateral talks with the Executive Director of EMSA, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, and addressed EMSA staff.



From left to right: the European Transport Commissioner, Adina Vălean, the Executive Director of EMSA, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, and the Director-General of DG MOVE at the European Commission, Henrik Hololei, at EMSA's headquarters on 1 September

## EMSA PARTICIPATES IN OPERATION BALEX DELTA WITH OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSEL AND EQUIPMENT

EMSA took part in the Balex Delta 2021 large-scale HNS and pollution response exercise, held on 24 and 25 August. In the exercise scenario, two tankers collided in the Gulf of Finland, resulting in oil and hazardous materials being released into the sea. The exercise, organised by the Finnish Border Guard, included participants and resources from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Poland and Sweden. EMSA contributed with its Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV) Norden, the vessel's on board Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS), and with additional pollution response equipment from the EMSA Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) for use on board other member state vessels. The organisers were also able to deploy an inflatable storage barge from EMSA's Equipment Assistance Service stockpile based in Frederikshavn, Denmark.



Views from onboard the Norden during the 2021 Balex Delta exercise in the Gulf of Finland.

EMSA currently has 17 OSRV on standby around the European coastline, ready to react in case of an oil spill emergency. For this exercise, EMSA mobilised the OSRV Norden, based in Malmö, Sweden. The Norden joined the activities taking place on 25 August, a day dedicated specifically to coordinating large-scale oil spill response operations at sea. The EMSA vessel used its rigid sweeping arms for oil recovery and simulated ship-to-ship fuel transfer operations with some of the other participating vessels. Stand-alone pollution response equipment from EMSA's Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) stockpile in Tolkinen, Finland (one of four EMSA equipment stockpiles across Europe) was deployed by selected member state vessels. EMSA conducts regular drills to ensure that its services and assets are in full operational readiness at all times, but a multi-national exercise like the Balex Delta allows it to train as part of combined task forces, and to ensure that the request and command chains work effectively. The Balex Delta exercise is an annual activity, which takes place under the umbrella of [HELCOM, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission](#). The organisation of the event rotates annually between the HELCOM member countries.



The Norden in action during the exercise in the Gulf of Finland, supporting Member State and Baltic State vessels and activity during the exercise.

## ALL ABOARD THE CONNECTING EUROPE EXPRESS: LANDMARK RAIL EVENT KICKS OFF AT EMSA'S LISBON HEADQUARTERS

The launch of the [Connecting Europe Express](#), an integral part of the European Year of Rail, took place in EMSA's headquarters on 2 September. The initiative features a train that will pass through 26 countries in a journey of more than 20 000 kilometres, to showcase the unifying force of rail. The event was opened by EMSA's Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, who stressed the importance of the continuous movement of vital supplies through the logistics chain, whether by rail, ship or truck, as underlined during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the added value that connectivity brings throughout Europe.



EMSA's Executive Director opens the Connecting Europe Express event at EMSA's headquarters on 2 September 2021

## EMAS AUDIT: GREENING THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY

EMSA has completed an internal environmental audit under the auspices of the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) as part of its internal environmental drive. The EMAS scheme is a premium management instrument developed by the European Commission for companies and other organisations to evaluate, report and improve their environmental performance. Already, EMSA receives 100 % of its energy needs from renewable sources and has banned single-use plastics from its premises. The Agency has successfully reduced its electricity and water consumption by over a third, integrated electric charging points for cars and bikes in its headquarters, and makes use of glass and ceramic cups and bottles for staff and visitors, instead of disposable ones. EMSA's comprehensive Environmental Management System encompasses the entire range of the Agency's activities and works to continually reduce the environmental impact of its tasks and daily operations. The next step for EMSA is external verification and EMAS registration.



Solar panels on the roof of EMSA's Lisbon headquarters

[emsa.europa.eu](https://emsa.europa.eu)

**VACANCIES:** Reserve List for a Maritime Support Services Officer (MSS) Duty Officer (8/9/2021). See website for more.

**PROCUREMENT:** Modelling of Continuous Underwater Radiated Noise (URN) from Ships (9/9/2021; deadline extended). See website for more.