

## SHARING COAST GUARD EXPERIENCES FOR A SAFER MEDITERRANEAN

From 30 June to 2 July, 65 delegates from four continents, 23 countries and 16 international, European and regional organisations met in Naples for the annual conference of the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum, on the theme of “Mediterranean: sharing experiences among coast guard functions” hosted by the Italian Coast Guard. EMSA contributed to the sessions on enhancing data sharing, maritime safety and environmental protection, and training and cooperation (SAFEMED III). The meeting was held in a very positive and constructive atmosphere, with the handover of the MCGFF chair from the Italian to the Turkish Coast Guard, and the establishment of the MCGFF Secretariat, consisting of the past, present and future chair, which will meet on a regular basis with the support of EMSA. The establishment of a working group on “maritime safety, marine pollution and cooperation on pollution response” was promoted, together with the development of a directory of Mediterranean Coast Guard authorities and the mapping of existing training centres of the Coast Guards of the Mediterranean countries.

## PARIS MOU HOLDS ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

EMSA played again a multifunctional role in the yearly Paris MoU committee meeting. The EMSA team provided specialist assistance to the European Commission and reported to the plenary as designated leader of two taskforces on the improvement of the information system and the new inspection policy within the Paris MoU. In its capacity as database manager, EMSA gave feedback on the enhancements and amendments made to THETIS. Finally, as developer and provider of the eLearning and Rulecheck tools, EMSA presented the various new functionalities and modules that now exist to support PSC officers of the Paris MoU.



## PILOT STUDY GETS UNDERWAY ON COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PSC DIRECTIVE

Following the outcome of the EMSA Administrative Board meeting in March 2016, EMSA is undertaking a cost-effectiveness pilot study on the Port State Control Directive. This exercise will offer practical insights into the main cost elements incurred by member states when implementing and enforcing this directive with a view to identifying and collecting relevant cost-efficiency measures. Dedicated questionnaires were sent to the member states in order to complement the information available from the THETIS and EMSA visit reports. EMSA has received replies from the 25 member states addressed. The results of this exercise will be presented during the Administrative Board meeting in November 2016.

## STRENGTHENING EMSA’S NETWORK OF STAND-BY OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSELS

The oil tanker Norden, based in Gothenburg and engaged in bunkering activities in the Southern Baltic Sea, entered the operational phase of its contract with EMSA in June. Contracted from Stena, the Norden strengthens the existing response capacities in the Southern Baltic Sea area thanks to its tank capacity of 2880m<sup>3</sup> for recovered oil. The vessel is equipped with sweeping arm systems as well as an ocean boom and a high capacity skimmer for mechanical oil recovery. In addition to this, the seaborne dispersant application capability provided by EMSA has been enhanced with the establishment of the third dispersant stockpile of 200 tons located in Sines, Portugal. This dispersant stockpile complements the dispersant application system available in addition to mechanical oil recovery on board the EMSA contacted vessel Bahia Tres also based in Sines. Both dispersant and vessel are available on request by European states.



## EMSA’S EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICE BECOMES OPERATIONAL

EMSA’s first Equipment Assistance Service stockpile—set up in Gdansk, Poland (EAS Baltic Sea) and consisting of stand-alone oil pollution response equipment—became operational in June. The requesting party may choose one or more equipment sets, including fire booms, combined containment and recovery systems, and trawl net systems. The equipment is available on request around the clock and can be mobilised anywhere in Europe. The EAS Baltic Sea complements the response capacity available through EMSA’s network of stand-by oil spill response vessels. EMSA’s second EAS stockpile, based in Aberdeen (EAS North Sea), is expected to become operational in July 2016.



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**CAREERS:** SNE Project Officer for Integrated Maritime Data (deadline: 9/9/2016)

**PROCUREMENT:** Provision of shore-based automatic identification systems (AIS) equipment to Lebanon and Tunisia (deadline: 5/8/2016); Provision of cleaning services for the premises of EMSA and EMCDDA (deadline: 2/8/2016)