



Wishing our readers a happy, healthy and prosperous new year

COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS WORKSHOP HELD IN EMSA

On 13 December EMSA hosted a workshop on safety at sea organised by the Portuguese chairmanship of the [European Coast Guard Functions Forum](#). This was the first of a series of events to be organised under the Portuguese chairmanship bringing together national authorities performing various coast guard functions throughout Europe to improve their cooperation, coordination and collaboration. The discussions were structured around four major themes: pollution at sea; search and rescue; situational awareness for coast guard functions; multiagency multipurpose operations. EMSA presented the services and tools it makes available to EU member states to support their activities related to marine pollution monitoring, preparedness and response, search and rescue and maritime surveillance, including the new Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems service that will be launched in 2017.



STAND-BY OIL SPILL RESPONSE CONTRACT SIGNED FOR THE BLACK SEA

EMSA has finalised the public procurement procedure for contracting a new stand-by oil spill response vessel for the Southern Black Sea. This new arrangement will replace the previous EMSA contract that expired in September 2016 in the same area. Contracted from the Bulgarian company Cosmos Shipping, the Galaxy Eco oil tanker will strengthen the existing [response capabilities](#) in the Black Sea area due to its tank capacity of nearly 3000m³ for recovered oil. She will undergo a preparation phase in order to be certified as capable of recovering oil with a flash point below 60°C. The vessel will be equipped with an oil slick detection radar, sweeping arm system



Mr Mylly congratulates Mr Prodanov from Cosmos Shipping

as well as with an ocean boom and an offshore skimmer for mechanical oil recovery. The Galaxy Eco is expected to be ready to enter into operational service by mid-2017. EMSA's Executive Director, Markku Mylly welcomed Cosmos Shipping to the network of EMSA's spill response contractors.

EMSA UNDERTAKES FACT FINDING MISSIONS IN BLACK AND CASPIAN SEA COUNTRIES

As part of the upcoming technical assistance project financed by the European Neighbourhood Instrument, EMSA is carrying out fact finding missions in Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine. The goal is to identify their specific needs in the fields of maritime safety, maritime security, vessel traffic monitoring, and the protection of the marine environment that can be addressed during the project. Three missions have already been held (Turkey, Ukraine, Georgia), revealing interest in EMSA tools such as RuleCheck and MaKCs. Interest was also shown in CleanSeaNet and the pilot project for sharing T-AIS information which will facilitate the detection of oil spills at sea and the identification of possible polluters. An additional mission is expected in early 2017 in Azerbaijan.

WORKSHOP ADDRESSES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SHIP RECYCLING REGULATION

EMSA held a workshop on the Ship Recycling Regulation on 19-20 November, gathering 42 participants from 21 EU countries, the European Commission and industry experts. The workshop helped to raise awareness on the provisions of the regulation. The main topics were: hazardous materials on board ships; development of the inventory of hazardous materials for new and existing ships; and, implementation of the relevant provisions of the regulation by member states in their capacity as Flag and Port States. Various issues were raised and debated such as the challenges for implementation and enforcement; interaction with international instruments; means of ensuring harmonised implementation; and, areas in which EMSA can offer further assistance.

SHARING BEST PRACTICES IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

On 1 December, EMSA hosted the first intersessional seminar of the Permanent Cooperation Framework (PCF). [Accident Investigation](#) experts from 25 countries exchanged best practices such as raising the profile of Accident Investigative Bodies, working with non-EU member countries, improving communication with other national authorities and drafting MoUs with stakeholders to ensure smooth cooperation. Based on the discussions, the PCF together with EMSA as secretariat will provide guidance and practical examples. Participants acknowledged that these technical seminars bring added value for the AI community and requested similar events in the future.



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CAREERS: SNE PO Standards for Seafarers (D/L: 31/1/2017); Assessor of Class Societies (D/L: 23/1/2017); 2xPO RPAS Operations & ATM (D/L: 13/1/2017); PO Training & Capacity Building (D/L: 13/01/2017)

PROCUREMENT: Provision of training on ISM code & auditing techniques (D/L: 6/2/2017); Demonstrating RPAS services for Coast Guard functions (D/L: 6/2/2017)

PUBLICATIONS: Annual overview of marine casualties and incidents 2016