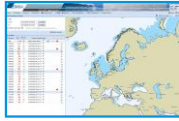## EU LRIT DATA CENTRE ENTERS PRODUCTION

From 1 June, the European Union Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships Data Centre (EU LRIT DC) entered in production following successful developmental testing. This is a milestone following a preparatory phase of a year-and-a-half of development work by the Agency and its main contractor – Collecte Localisation Satellite (CLS). By the entry into operation of the EU LRIT DC, the participating Contracting Governments met the international deadline for providing LRIT information as of 30 June 2009. To support the work of the competent maritime authorities of Member States, EMSA has set up a permanent monitoring function (Maritime Support Services) to ensure the continuity, quality and reliability of the information exchanged through the new EU LRIT DC. For more information, see the EMSA press release.

WILLEM DE RUITER RECEIVES FRENCH 'MERITE MARITIME' AWARD

On the occasion of the EU Maritime Day, Willem de Ruiter was made a Chevalier du Mérite Maritime, a French national award given for

From left: Francis Vallat, President of the French Maritime Cluster; Dominique Bussereau, French Minister of Transport; Willem De Ruiter, EMSA
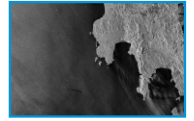
outstanding services in the maritime field. The medal was offered by Dominique Bussereau, minister of Transport, representing the government, during a ceremony organised in the lounge of 'Vedettes de Paris' by the French Maritime Cluster with the participation of the Institut français de la Mer.

2008: 670 ACCIDENTS, 82 SEAFARERS' LIVES LOST

On 16 June, EMSA released its Maritime Accident Review 2008. Covering the year 2008, the review reported that 754 vessels were involved in 670 accidents (sinkings, collisions, groundings, fires/explosions and other significant accidents) in and around EU waters during 2008. This compares with 762 vessels involved in 715 accidents in 2007, and 535 vessels involved in 505 accidents during 2006. 82 seafarers were reported to have lost their lives, the same figure as in 2007, yet up from 76 in 2006.

TENDER FOR CLEANSEANET DATA CENTRE LAUNCHED

A tender for the EMSA CleanSeaNet Data Centre has been launched, to include the design, development, implementation, and maintenance of the CleanSeaNet Data Centre (CSN DC) for the provision of a 'near-real-time' service for monitoring oil spills in European waters, and integrating relevant data from different sources. The CSN DC, to be hosted at EMSA, will enable the Agency to manage Earth Observation data, and to store and manage data for distribution to CleanSeaNet users. The CSN will guarantee an integrated platform for the alert, visualisation, dissemination, input and archiving of both data and information, upon which new services with strong long-term value can be built.

EMSA PARTICIPATES IN 'BACK TO SCHOOL' INITIATIVE

Portuguese school pupils learn about the EU and EMSA

On 22 May the European Commission organised in Portugal a new 'Back to School' initiative involving EMSA's Portuguese staff. The project encourages EU officials to go back to their old schools for a day and talk with students and teachers about the European Union. Portuguese pupils and students were able to learn about the role of the EU institutions, the enlargement, the Lisbon Treaty, gender equality and, naturally, a particular Lisbon-based agency involved in enhancing maritime safety.

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

Among EMSA's job vacancies: an Application Engineer to support EMSA's Maritime Applications (SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet, etc.). Deadline: 10 July.

Leaflet describing the new EU LRIT Data Centre.

In order to subscribe to this newsletter, please contact louis.baumard@emsa.europa.eu or peter.thomas@emsa.europa.eu