

'TARA' PUTTING OCEANS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Beginning a three-year expedition around the world, the French scientific vessel *Tara* made its first call in Lisbon on 11 September. Before heading toward the Mediterranean, Captain Hervé Bourmaud



The *Tara* at Alcântara dock in Lisbon

and crew members paid a visit to EMSA and enlightened staff about their scientific mission. *Tara's* voyage will take a 'snapshot' of the microscopic world which provides the basis for life on Earth. For instance, *Tara* will continuously sample the sea to collect plankton, and samples will then be shipped to various qualified laboratories in Germany, France, Spain, the US etc. *Tara's* crew will also study life in ocean deserts, the overproduction of algae, concentrations of plastic waste, thawing and upwellings. *Tara* is 36m long, 10 wide and 120 tonnes. The ship is famous for her – voluntary – 507 days' drifting across the Arctic Ocean in 2007 and 2008 (*Tara Oceans Expedition*). Her crew numbers 15 seafarers and scientists.

EMSA CELEBRATES EUROPE DAY AT THE VIGO WORLD FISHING EXHIBITION



The EU's work in managing the oceans was presented from 15-19 September at the 6th *World Fishing Exhibition* held in Vigo (Spain). During a special Europe Day on 18 September, EMSA together with the Vigo-based *Community Fisheries Control Agency* (CFCA) met Spanish stakeholders and visitors from around the world. The exhibition attracts tens of thousand visitors to Vigo every six years. EMSA also organised an open ship event in the port of Vigo with its contracted oil pollution response vessel *Ria de Vigo*. The event brought both the general public and VIPs into direct contact with the vessel, crew and pollution response equipment. Both CFCA and EMSA may be called upon to work in a closer way in the future.

EDA MEETING ON MARITIME SURVEILLANCE



EMSA staff and the European Defence Agency's 'Wise Pen Team'

On 16 September a delegation of the *European Defence Agency's* 'Wise Pen Team' visited EMSA. Admirals (r) Hebrard, Dymock and Fernando del Pozo exchanged views with EMSA's Executive Director on the capabilities of the Agency in the field of maritime surveillance, focusing on the functionality of *SafeSeaNet*, *CleanSeaNet* and the *EU LRIT Data Centre*. The Wise Pen Team is tasked to produce a conceptual document on maritime surveillance, and is currently visiting all institutions which have a role or interest in maritime surveillance.

PORT STATE CONTROL: CALCULATORS FOR THE NEW INSPECTION REGIME NOW ONLINE

Identifying badly performing ships is a vital aspect of the new inspection regime for Port State Control. The EMSA website now features a *Ship Risk Profile (SRP) calculator* and *Company Performance Calculator* to assist Member States in prioritising which ships need inspection. The tools enable users to provide ships with a risk weighting, and determine their future risk profile in accordance with *Directive 2009/16/EC*.

YOUNG GERMAN CIVIL OFFICERS VISIT EMSA

30 young civil officers from the German Federal Ministry of the Interior visited EMSA on 3 September. The Ministry includes a maritime wing of the police ('*Bundespolizei See*') which carries out various security tasks with a fleet of seagoing vessels, with a remit covering environmental crime, terrorism, piracy, *FRONTEX* coordination, and the coastguard-like German joint water forces, the '*Kuestenwache*'.

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

Port State Control New Inspection Regime calculators: *Ship Risk Profile Calculator* and *Company Performance Calculator*.

New EMSA procurement item: *Provision of training services*.

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