

### EMSA OPENING DAY CELEBRATIONS

On 14<sup>th</sup> September, 450 guests attended the inauguration of EMSA in Lisbon at different venues in the Expo area. The event took place in the presence of José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Portuguese Prime Minister José Socrates Carvalho Pinto de Sousa, Efthimios Mitropoulos, Secretary General of the IMO, Jacques Barrot, European Commission vice-president and Commissioner for Transport. The event was also attended by high level representatives from Portugal, European Union and EFTA Member States, candidate countries, the maritime industry and international and European organisations. The celebrations also generated a high level of interest from the press and audio-visual media. In the afternoon, one of EMSA's contracted oil pollution response vessels, the *Ile de Bréhat*, was visited by Commissioner Barrot so that he could see the Agency's operational activities at first hand.



### FIRST EMSA AT-SEA ANTI-POLLUTION EXERCISES

The first series of at sea anti-pollution exercises involving EMSA contracted oil pollution response vessels took place during September. The first of these was organised in the Baltic Sea on 5<sup>th</sup> September, the second was held off the north-west coast of Spain on 11<sup>th</sup> September and the third was held off the coast of central Portugal on 15<sup>th</sup> September. In the Baltic Sea, 22 vessels and personnel from 7 EU countries and Russia participated in. The EMSA-contracted anti-pollution vessels involved were the *Otilia* and the *Breeze*. The Atlantic Arc exercises took place off La Coruña and off Setubal/Sesimbra. The Spanish exercise was carried out in close cooperation with the Spanish search and rescue service (SASEMAR) and involved the EMSA-contracted oil pollution response vessel *Ile de Bréhat* and a SASEMAR tug. The Portuguese exercise involved the *Ile de Bréhat* and a frigate, two

tugs and a Sea Lynx helicopter from the Portuguese Navy. The exercises were very useful in identifying areas where improvements could be made.



*The Breeze in the Gulf of Gdansk off Poland.*

### STAFF LEARN ABOUT FLAG STATE AUDITS

The EMSA Unit for Safety Assessments and Inspections organised an internal course on "flag state audit" on 3-7<sup>th</sup> July. The course contributed to reinforce the knowledge of the staff on auditing issues related to Flag State implementation. The course was given by Mr. Jorgen Rasmussen, who is an International Maritime Organisation consultant on "Flag State Audit" involved in the Voluntary IMO Member State Audit Scheme. Agency staff benefited significantly from his input and enjoyed sharing their experiences with him.



### EMSA BROCHURE IN 20 LANGUAGES

The EMSA brochure has now been produced in all 20 EU languages, and these can be viewed and/or downloaded via the homepage on the website ([www.emsa.europa.eu](http://www.emsa.europa.eu)). The brochure provides an overview of the most important parts of the work programme, as well as useful information on its development history and structure.

*If you wish to subscribe to this electronic newsletter, please contact EMSA External Communications: Louis Baumard ([louis.baumard@emsa.eu.int](mailto:louis.baumard@emsa.eu.int)) or Andrew Stimpson ([andrew.stimpson@emsa.eu.int](mailto:andrew.stimpson@emsa.eu.int)).*