

VIOLETA BULC TAKES UP ROLE AS NEW TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER

On Tuesday 21 October, Ms Violeta Bulc, a Slovenian national, was nominated Commissioner for Transport of the European Commission. After a successful [confirmation hearing](#) in front of the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism, Ms Bulc was assigned the transport portfolio. Ms Bulc, 50, who succeeds Siim Kallas, held various telecommunications roles before becoming Slovenia's Deputy Prime Minister for a brief spell in September 2014. She has now been in office as European Commissioner since 1 November.



"I am determined to maintain the high level of safety and security that characterises the EU transport system today," declared Ms Bulc.

RESPONDING EFFECTIVELY TO CHEMICAL POLLUTION AT SEA

Being prepared and responding effectively to maritime incidents involving cargoes of hazardous and noxious (HNS) substances presents a number of challenges. To address these challenges, EMSA held a workshop dedicated to chemical marine pollution response on 1-2 October. This workshop was geared towards experts from national administrations whose responsibilities include marine pollution response. It also targeted relevant industry representatives. Approximately 40 participants from 20 EU countries, four Regional Agreement Secretariats and 8 industry representatives were present. The workshop's main objectives were: to familiarise participants with the role and activation procedures of existing services at EU level in support of maritime chemical incident response; and, to identify and discuss the key challenges associated with HNS maritime incident response, including future challenges.



EU BODIES AND COUNTRIES DISCUSS INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES

On 30 October, the 4th User Consultation Meeting (UCM#4) was held at EMSA. This meeting is a consolidated and important forum to exchange best practices and experiences at national and EU body level for the use of [EMSA's integrated maritime services](#). In addition to the 14 member states who have volunteered to be part of the integrated maritime pilot service, representing a multitude of different user communities (maritime safety and security, environmental monitoring, border control, defence, fisheries monitoring and law enforcement) and a user base of over 185 users, a number of EU bodies also presented their valuable

experience and feedback on the daily use of EMSA's integrated maritime services. Among them were the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), the EU agency for the management of operational cooperation at the external borders of the member states of the European Union (Frontex) and the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre responsible for Narcotics (MAOC-N). The European Commission (DG MOVE) presented the newly updated VTMS directive ([2014/100/EU](#)) of 28 October which sets a solid legal basis for EMSA's integrated traffic monitoring and information services.



From left to right: Lazaros Aichmalotidis (EMSA), Carlos Saraiva (MAOC-N), Michael Risley (MAOC-N), Kinga Wilkus (FRONTEX), Leendert Bal (EMSA), Sven Tahon (EFCA), Machteld Price (EMSA), Jacob Terling (DG MOVE)

SAFESEANET: FOCUSING ON THE INCIDENT REPORT FRAMEWORK

On 23 October, EMSA hosted a training course on the SafeSeaNet application for EU marine pollution response experts with the goal to present how the system can support both marine environment protection and the initial response operations in case of a pollution incident. Thirty participants from 22 member states and two Commission representatives attended the course, which focused mainly on the improved incident report (POLREP) framework and the enhanced SafeSeaNet graphical interface. A comprehensive training course was delivered on the incident report module which allows users to create and distribute information related to pollution incidents to the member states concerned. Participants also received an update on the forthcoming link between SafeSeaNet and the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS) for the exchange of POLREPs, and on the activities carried out by the Hazmat working group. The attendees gave very positive feedback on the training and acknowledged the added value of SafeSeaNet for the pollution response community.



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PROCUREMENT:

Provision of transportation, storage, maintenance and insurance for oil spill response equipment (deadline: 14/11/2014)

PUBLICATIONS:

Inventory of national policies regarding the use of oil spill dispersants in the EU / Study assessing the acceptable and practicable risk level of passenger ships related to damage stability undertaken by DNVGL