

EMSA PROGRESS REPORT AT EU PARLIAMENT TRAN COMMITTEE

In line with annual tradition, on December 2 Executive Director Willem de Ruiter presented the Agency's recent achievements to the European Parliament's [Transport and Tourism Committee](#). Focusing on the proposed amendments to the Agency's founding Regulation, he reminded MEPs that the Agency currently carries out more than 20 tasks, and that more might be added in the future. In difficult financial times, he also expressed his hope that a fair balance would be struck between new tasks and EMSA's budgetary needs. [Answering MEP's questions](#), he also made public the fact that three tenders will be launched in 2011 to contract oil spill response vessels in the Black Sea, West Mediterranean and Bay of Biscay.



Executive Director Willem de Ruiter at the TRAN Committee meeting

GREEN LIGHT FOR THE 'BLUE BELT'



Improving the efficiency of the paperwork linked to maritime freight transport is vital to encourage short sea shipping, and to encourage shippers to use waterborne routes in addition to road and rail.

Short-sea shipping, and a 'European maritime space without barriers' remains high on the European agenda. In October's newsletter, you read about a possible role for EMSA in the Commission's 'Blue Belt' concept. This aims at using technology and maritime transport monitoring capabilities - notably SafeSeaNet - to facilitate intra-EU waterborne transport and to integrate it into logistics chains, helping e.g. the work of customs, coastguards and port authorities. On 30 November, the European Commission [announced](#) the launch of a pilot project to validate the concept, using SafeSeaNet and EMSA assistance. The pilot project is currently in a very early phase, but early technical meetings took place during December 2010. Expect more news on the 'Blue Belt' during 2011.

TRAINING ON RO-PAX STABILITY

On December 7, EMSA hosted a training session on best practices as regards ro-ro passenger vessel stability, and the application of [Directive 2003/25/EC](#) on specific stability requirements for ro-ro passenger ships. Attendees were trained on the new stability rules introduced by SOLAS 2009, together with their impact. They also received the first results of a study of on 'damage stability parameters of ro-ro passenger vessels according to SOLAS 2009, including water on-deck calculation' carried out for EMSA by Strathclyde University.



ALIVE AND CLICKING: MULTIPLE ICT PROJECT LAUNCHES IN DECEMBER

More functions, more users, more services... the end of 2010 saw many of the Agency's next-generation technology projects come online. During November and December, the Agency's Operations Support Unit had to finalise final tests and the 'go-live' of a number of second generation applications. SafeSeaNet 2, CleanSeaNet 2, and Thetis are all running successfully, and were delivered ahead of their 1 January 2011 deadline. Thetis is the application supporting the [New Inspection Regime](#) (NIR) for port State Control, which has been in force since January 1 2011. So what is next on the agenda for EMSA's busy ICT engineers? 2011 will see migrations of LRIT data, the pilot to test the Blue Belt concept, and, naturally, 24-carat support to EMSA's growing user base.



At a recent EMSA 'lunchtime meeting' ICT head of unit Steve Deighton (centre) explains the 'big bang', together with Frank Premereur (ICT Architecture & Integration, left) and Antonio Anciaes (ICT Project Delivery, right)

A FEAST OF SHIP AND FLEET DATA: EQUASIS 2008-9 STATS NOW ONLINE

Even the smallest vessels' characteristics form part of the EQUASIS database. The EQUASIS Management Unit, based since 2009 at EMSA, has just released its statistical publications for 2008 and 2009 on the [EMSA website for free download](#). Each 100-page report provides a picture of the world's merchant fleet, derived from data contained in the EQUASIS database. The reports look at the make-up of the world merchant fleet and its performance. Stats are grouped into themes which could be of interest to the industry and regulators: fleet population, classification societies, P&I club, Port State Control, vetting programmes and trade associations. The next annual publication, for 2010, will be made available early in 2011.



EMSA WOULD LIKE TO WISH A PROSPEROUS, SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY 2011 TO ALL OF ITS STAKEHOLDERS

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

Port State Control section: NIR - links to ship reporting websites in participating States of the Paris MoU.

Recruitment: P.O. for PSC Info Systems, Document Management Coordinator, Events/Infrastructure Assistant, Application Engineer.

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