

INSIGHTS INTO AGENCY ACTIVITIES IN THE COMING YEAR SET OUT IN RECENTLY PUBLISHED EMSA OUTLOOK 2023

The [EMSA Outlook 2023](#) is ready for download from the Agency website giving a summary account of the Agency's activities in the year ahead. The publication is structured around seven thematic areas covering the four key areas of sustainability, safety & security, surveillance and simplification, followed by the three cross-cutting areas of digitalisation, technical assistance and strategic support. The publication presents the main steps the Agency plans to take to deliver on its multiannual strategic objectives as laid out in the statutory [Single Programming Document](#) (2023-2025). EMSA will continue to support the implementation of the European Green Deal and its related action points offering assistance on the revision and implementation of the IMO's greenhouse gas strategy. Safety will underpin all the sustainability actions with guidance for the safe use of alternative power sources developed as necessary. We will be addressing the various safety concerns identified – including those from our flagship [EMSAFE report](#) and the [safety analyses](#) derived from the European Maritime Casualty Information Platform. The Agency will host the Annual Coast Guard Event in Lisbon later this year together with a Multipurpose Maritime Operation in the Baltic Sea with active participation of several EU Member States. As the unprovoked aggression of Ukraine continues, EMSA services will support the implementation of the grain deal, monitoring the implementation of sanctions. Eyes will also be on Brussels, as the upcoming revision of EMSA's mandate is expected to reach the co-legislators in the first part of 2023.



EMSA AND EUROPOL DIRECTORS MEET TO DISCUSS THEIR JOINT COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Executive Directors of EMSA and EUROPOL met at the end of last year in the Hague, at Europol's Headquarters, to discuss their upcoming activities as foreseen in the Working Arrangement as well as new areas of potential cooperation. EMSA has been providing Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) to support Europol in the areas of law enforcement and organised crime at sea since the signature of the Working Arrangement in December 2018. The main activity under the arrangement is the provision of a dedicated IMS operation (via the SEG) which is built on existing services, applications and platforms using existing EMSA resources and provided free of charge. Both agencies discussed revising the existing arrangement to establish a financial mechanism enabling the potential development of specific Europol requirements. The meeting focussed on future activities for EMSA in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) as well as cooperation in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and encryption techniques.



MAR-ICE SUPPORT FOR CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES AT SEA EXTENDED BY ANOTHER FIVE YEARS

After a full decade and half of cooperation, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) together with the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) have amended their three-party Cooperation Agreement to extend the [MAR-ICE service](#) until the end of 2027, thereby offering continued support in the event of chemical emergencies at sea. The three organisations have been working together since 2008, when they first established the network of chemical experts, known as the MAR-ICE network, to strengthen the transfer of information on chemical substances involved in maritime pollution emergencies occurring in European waters. Since it became operational, the MAR-ICE service has been activated over 60 times, both for exercises as well as real incidents,

demonstrating the added value of the cooperation established between EMSA, Cefic and the European chemical industry through Cefic. Upon request and through a single contact point, the network provides EU Member States and the coastal states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) with product-specific information and expert advice on chemicals involved in marine pollution incidents. When a request is placed, an expert from the chemical industry may be made available to provide on-site advice and assistance at the operational centre of the requesting country dealing with the response operations. This is known as MAR-ICE 'level-2' support, which builds on the specialised information and advice already provided remotely by the network known as MAR-ICE 'level-1'. This two-tiered approach allows for both remote and on-site expert support to be provided in the event of a chemical emergency at sea. In addition, rapid and direct access to a chemical expert who can provide and clarify relevant information on chemical substances is critical in responding and managing chemical emergencies, and the MAR-ICE service makes this 24/7 across the EU.



WELL ESTABLISHED DATA PROTECTION NETWORK HOLDS BI-ANNUAL MEETING IN EMSA TO PROMOTE KNOW-HOW AND BEST PRACTICES

EMSA hosted the 51st bi-annual meeting of the EU's Network of Data Protection Officers (DPO Network) with the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) on 5-6 December. Eighty-four participants from 53 EU institutions, agencies and bodies attended the meeting online and in person. In its quarter-

century of existence, the network has proven to be a valuable forum for discussion, a hub, and a focal point on data protection and privacy issues for the DPO of all EU institutions. During the meeting, the network and the EDPS discussed some important developments in the data protection field, such as audits and response to personal data breaches. The future of the network was also discussed and put to a vote, which will push forward its development and affirm its role as a breeding ground of good ideas and constructive exchanges.



STRONG YEAR END FOR EMSA RPAS AS FLIGHTS CONTINUED OFFERING MULTIPURPOSE SURVEILLANCE ACROSS EUROPE UNTIL CHRISTMAS

A wide range of EMSA's Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) continued to be deployed throughout the final quarter of 2022, offering multipurpose maritime surveillance over EU waters to a variety of different national authorities. Between October and December, EMSA RPAS conducted several multipurpose surveillance operations: flying from Estonia in the Baltic (while also serving authorities in Latvia and Finland);



EMSA sniffer drone supporting French authorities to monitor ship emissions on Mediterranean Sea coast.



EMSA sniffer drone engaged in emissions monitoring over the Baltic Sea.

from Italy in the Mediterranean; and, from the EFCA patrol vessel in the Atlantic and North Seas. RPAS were used for a whole array of tasks, including pollution detection, monitoring whale sanctuaries and fisheries control areas, detection of risks to navigation (eg. vessels without AIS, debris, etc.), support to search and rescue operations and exercises, and for the detection of illegal activities or certain behaviours at sea. Moreover, emissions monitoring services - using RPAS equipped with SO_x sensors - were deployed in the Channel from the French coast, in the Strait of Gibraltar from the Spanish coast and in the French port of Marseille right up until 22 December. These operations were not limited to emissions monitoring as they also offered support to activities related to search and rescue, customs and fisheries control. In 2022, the EMSA RPAS services were deployed for a total of 1305 days; lightweight RPAS were on standby on board 12 pollution response vessels; and, EMSA supported maritime authorities in 14 Member States (both EU and EFTA).



EMSA RPAS was deployed by Italian authorities for increased maritime surveillance particularly in the Pelagos Sanctuary protected marine area.



An overview of EMSA's RPAS operations throughout the year, the authorities they served and the tasks they undertook.

AUTOMATED BEHAVIOUR MONITORING AND ADVANCED ANALYTICS (ABM) WORKSHOP

For the 8th time since 2015, EMSA's maritime digital services held the Automated Behaviour Monitoring and Advanced Analytics (ABM) Workshop in a hybrid meeting on 13 December. Discussion topics included ABM-related developments, scenarios for the potential usage of new technologies (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning), and the potential future evolution of the EMSA's Maritime Analytics Tool (EMAT) prototype. Representatives of Member State maritime authorities and EU bodies also contributed by sharing best practices in operational usage of the service.



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VACANCIES: Project Officer for Visits and Inspections (31/01/23); Reserve list for a Policy Support and Communications Officer (18/01/23); Reserve list for a Maritime Support Services Duty Officer (23/01/23); Project Officer for Visits and Inspections - SNE (31/1/23); See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: ICT horizontal services (7/2/23); Supply of portable emergency offloading pumping system for oil and liquid HNS (10/2/23); Service contract for intermediate storage vessel (17/2/23); See website for more.