

New Board Chairman at EMSA

EMSA's Administrative Board met today for the first time at the Agency's new permanent headquarters in the centre of Lisbon. Its members elected Mr Jørgen Hammer Hansen as Chairman and Mr Serghios Serghiou as Deputy-Chairman. Mr Hammer Hansen is currently Director General of the Danish Maritime Authority and Mr Serghiou is Director of the Cypriot Department of Merchant Shipping.

"Brian Wadsworth and Francis Vallat have overseen the first six years of the Agency's development as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and we are very grateful for their invaluable contributions," said Executive Director Willem de Ruiters. *"It is now time for them to hand over the baton to the new leadership, and we look forward to building on the work done so far. Under the guidance and experience of our new chairman and vice-chairman, we are ready to tackle the challenges ahead."*

Background

The European Maritime Agency (EMSA) was set up in 2002 under EC Regulation 1406/2002/EC, at which time its Administrative Board was set up to ensure that the Agency carries out its mission and performs the tasks assigned to it under the conditions laid down in the Regulation. The term of office of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board is three years, renewable only once. Following the six years in office of the incumbents, a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Mr Hammer Hansen and Mr Serghios Serghiou were elected today. Mr Hammer Hansen has represented Denmark on the Board since the Agency was created in December 2002, and he holds the position of Director General of the Danish Maritime Authority since 1996.

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