MARITIME ACCIDENT REVIEW 2009 LAUNCHED AT EU MARITIME DAY

VIPs watch a welcome address by Commission President Barroso at the Maritime Day Stakeholder Conferece in Gijón, Spain on 20 May.

The EU Maritime Day on 20 May provided the platform for EMSA to publish its Maritime Accident Review 2009, a report on the shipping accidents in and around EU waters during 2009. The third annual EU Maritime Day Stakeholder Conference offered the most ambitious programme to date, attracting over 1500 delegates from across Europe, including two EU Commissioners, the Spanish royals Prince Felipe and Princess Letizia, Member State policymakers, NGOs, industry and researchers. The main theme for the event was progress on the EU's Integrated Maritime Policy. Workshops with EMSA relevance included those on integrating maritime surveillance systems (such as SafeSeaNet) and on oil spill detection and response. The full findings of EMSA's new Maritime Accident Review 2009 can be found on the Agency's website.

MORE EMSA POLLUTION RESPONSE PRESENCE IN THE ADRIATIC SEA

Members of a Slovenian NGO at the EMSA stand in Opatija.

From 12-14 May, EMSA representatives attended the First Adriatic Oil Spill Conference in Opatija (Croatia). Croatia, as a Candidate Country with a long and beautiful shoreline, is interested in improving its oil spill response capacity. The conference allowed the Agency to better explain how its contracted vessels work, and how it can help in case of a major incident.
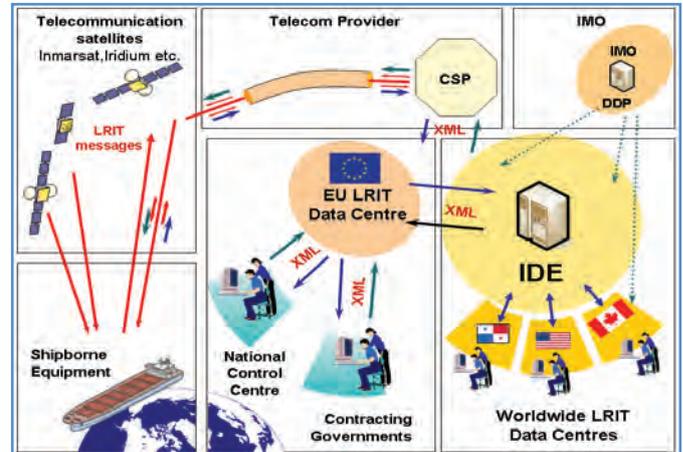
DIPLOMATS GET EMSA RED CARPET WELCOME

Ambassadors with EMSA Executive Director Willem de Ruiter at EMSA's HQ.

In the context of EU Maritime Day, and at the initiative of the Spanish Embassy in Lisbon, on 19 May EMSA welcomed to its premises a visit from the Lisbon-resident ambassadors of EU Member States and Candidate Countries. The event proved an opportunity to provide information about EMSA's role in improving maritime safety and combating ship-sourced marine pollution.

IMO'S IDE EXCHANGE FOR INTERNATIONAL LRIT DATA COMING TO EMSA

Operational since 2009, the IDE connects to around 60 LRIT Data Centres worldwide, and acts like a 'switchboard' for vessel traffic data, applying an appropriate security, access and authorisation structure, and ensuring the reliable and accurate flow of information.

Following a decision by the 87th Session of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee, towards the end of 2011, EMSA will take over from the interim International Data Exchange (IDE) Operator (based in the United States) for the hosting, operations and maintenance of the IDE at its Lisbon premises. The Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) system allows the worldwide tracking of ships via satellite for safety, security, search and rescue and protection of the environment. Flag States can track their own ships all over the world, and Coastal States can track any ships coming into their waters/ports starting from 1000 Nm range.

STCW TEAM STEERS TILLER TO MANILA

Four EMSA STCW inspectors recently visited the Philippines as part of their regular monitoring of maritime training systems. The visit followed up on an inspection in 2006, and covered the activities of five agencies of the maritime administration and seven maritime education and training institutions. These institutions had deficiencies identified in 2006 and during their work, EMSA inspectors verified the corrective actions that have been taken to address the problems. The inspections were conducted in Manila, Zambales, Cebu and Palompon.

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

Procurement: IT Services for electronic Human Resources Management.

EMSA Documents: Sharing the European Vessel Traffic Image and Beyond (SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet, LRIT).

Press Release: 19.5% fewer ship accidents in EU during 2009 yet trend may be reversing, says EMSA.

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