

## COOPERATION CONTINUES IN SUPPORT OF SHIPS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

On 27 January EMSA took part in the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge, held back-to-back with a conference organised by the Intergroup on Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas (SEARICA) at the European Parliament. Chaired by Mrs Gesine Meissner, the conference provided the opportunity to present the **EU's Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge**. These guidelines were developed in 2014-2015 by a Correspondence Group coordinated by EMSA in the role of secretariat. A **video from the Table Top Exercise on Places of Refuge**, held by EMSA and Transport Malta in September 2015, was premiered at the conference. Transport Commissioner, Violeta Bulc, congratulated everyone involved on the achieved results praising the "proactive implementation of EU legislation".



The guidelines were developed in the aftermath of the MSC Flaminia accident.

## EMSA BECOMES ENTRUSTED ENTITY OF THE EU'S EARTH OBSERVATION PROGRAMME COPERNICUS

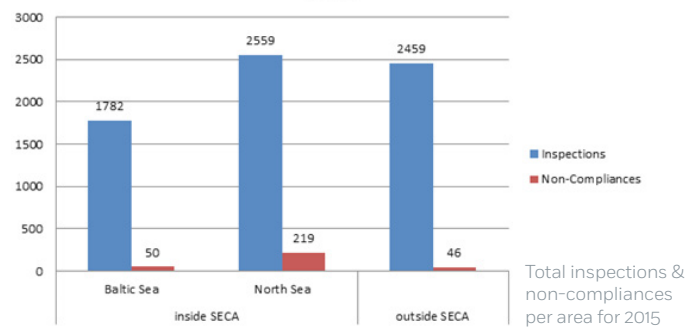
In 2016 EMSA will begin implementing Copernicus Security Services for Maritime Surveillance, receiving an estimated budget of €40 000 000 over the period 2016-2020. The Agency's recognised expertise and established tools made it a natural candidate to operate this programme on behalf of the Commission. The Delegation Agreement signed on 3 December 2015 identifies EMSA as the 'entrusted entity' to set up and organise these services, in consultation with relevant stakeholders. It is expected that Copernicus services will be rolled out gradually, taking into account the different maturity levels of existing operational services and user groups. Initially services will be concentrated on functions related to fisheries control, maritime safety, law enforcement, and marine pollution monitoring, which will be developed in close cooperation with the maritime end users. The services will entail acquiring an extended range of satellite data (synthetic aperture radar and optical data in a variety of resolutions) from a variety of providers, as well as undertaking the necessary upgrades to ICT infrastructures and ensuring that users make best use of the new services through training and promotion activities.



The Copernicus Delegation Agreement was signed between EMSA and the Commission's DG GROW on 3 December 2015.

## THETIS-S: ONE YEAR IN REVIEW

THETIS-S has now been up and running – supporting member states in their enforcement of the Sulphur Directive – since 1 January 2015. This new module, an extension of the existing THETIS system, serves as a platform to record and exchange information on the results of individual compliance verifications. It has been well received both by member states as it facilitates their fulfilment of legal obligations, as well as by industry as it has led to a high level of uniformity in inspection and fuel sampling. After the first full year, 6 800 relevant inspections were recorded. Through the reported inspections, non-compliance was detected in 3% (Baltic Sea), 9% (North Sea) and 2% (outside SECA) of the inspections conducted. The system is to be further enhanced to include risk-based target mechanisms (including specific alerts from remote sensing and other available technologies), thereby providing a more efficient way of identifying and selecting substandard shipping that would be a potential threat to the marine environment.



## PROVIDING INFORMATION AND ADVICE ON CHEMICALS IN THE EVENT OF A MARITIME EMERGENCY VIA THE MAR-ICE NETWORK

EMSA met with its MAR-ICE Network partners, the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre), to review and discuss the network's activations since July 2013, address relevant developments within the chemical industry and EMSA, and explore options to further enhance the MAR-ICE service. There has been a recent increase in the network's activations during chemical spill exercises. The feedback received from the service's users was analysed and several follow-up actions identified, including the revision of the MAR-ICE Contact Form. Overall, the service provided by this public-private partnership is well appreciated and all parties expressed their desire to continue with the MAR-ICE Network in the future and explore options to further develop the information service it provides for chemical spills. The 3<sup>rd</sup> MAR-ICE Network evaluation report will be published on EMSA's website in early 2016.

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**CAREERS:** National Experts in Professional Training (deadline: 18/02/2016)

**PROCUREMENT:** Maintenance and Enhancement of EMSA's e-learning programme (deadline: 8/02/2016)