

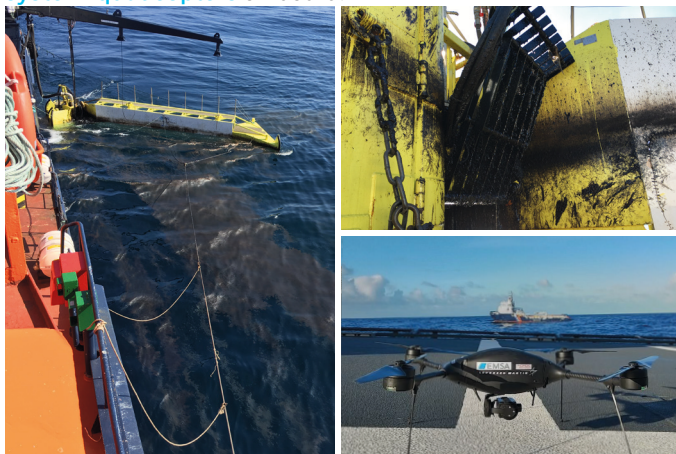
ADMIN BOARD MEMBERS PUT HEADS TOGETHER TO SET 2020-24 PRIORITIES

EMSA's administrative board on 20-21 March was a break from the norm. Board members, assisted by EMSA staff, took the opportunity to exchange views on the upcoming five-year strategy in an interactive brainstorming workshop. In the morning session, discussions were structured around EMSA's main areas of work (maritime safety, security, environmental protection and single market facilitation) and, in the afternoon, around the three roles EMSA typically performs for its stakeholders, namely as service provider to the member states and European Commission; as a reliable partner for bodies in the EU and beyond; and, as a knowledge broker and innovator. The ideas are now being compiled and will form the basis of the new strategy, which is expected to be ready in the autumn. During the second day of the admin board, business as usual resumed and members were presented with the consolidated annual activity report as told by agency staff in the [2018 highlights video](#).



EMSA ASSISTS FRENCH AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING GRANDE AMERICA ACCIDENT

EMSA has been providing emergency assistance at the request of the French authorities after the Grande America vehicle carrier sank on 12 March in the Bay of Biscay. EMSA was alerted of the incident via the EU vessel traffic monitoring and information system [SafeSeaNet](#), and the CleanSeaNet satellite service was activated shortly afterwards by the French authorities. Through [CleanSeaNet](#), EMSA was able to provide around 50 synthetic aperture radar images, thereby helping to monitor the area of the incident and track the evolution of the detected spill for both the French and Spanish authorities. In the clean-up operations, two of EMSA's [standby oil spill response vessels](#) were deployed and recovered substantial quantities of the oil spilled, assisted by the monitoring capabilities of the [remotely piloted aircraft system-quadcopters](#) on board.



The Ria de Vigo and VN Partisan response vessels were mobilised both with the RPAS Indago model from Nordic Unmanned on board.

BUILDING UP NATIONAL CAPACITY ACROSS FLAG, PORT AND COASTAL STATES

EMSA held a workshop on capacity building activities in Lisbon on 26-27 March. The workshop aimed at finetuning the areas of possible [support to national authorities](#) responsible for flag state implementation and port state control. It also looked at information sharing on ongoing activities related to the responsibilities of flag, port and coastal states in the EU. The discussions focussed mainly on the Dynamic Overview of National Authorities (DONA) and had the objective of defining its content and functionalities (country profile, reporting gate, statistics), as well as on the recent developments concerning eCertificates and future activities planned by EMSA. In addition, the European Commission provided information on the Refit Exercise for a series of EU legislation as well as on the options for technical support offered under the Structural Reform Support Service. In general, the concept of DONA, the enhancement of [THETIS](#) and the IMSAS training were warmly welcomed and endorsed by member states.

TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS

On 6 March EMSA held a practical table top exercise on maritime cybersecurity geared towards member state authorities working in the field of maritime security. The purpose of the exercise was to raise cyber awareness through a series of real life scenarios, and was attended by 50 participants from member states, the European Commission, EFTA, ENISA and BIMCO. The first part consisted of a number of presentations which would prepare the participants to address the real life scenarios given in the second part of the exercise. A number of useful considerations were made and conclusions drawn, leading participants to request similar workshops in the future on this increasingly critical topic. The cybersecurity exercise was held back-to-back with the 54th meeting of the Stakeholders Advisory Group on Maritime Security and the 75th MARSEC committee meeting, both hosted by EMSA on 7 March.

DISTANCE LEARNING MODULES ON CYBERSECURITY NOW OPEN TO ALL

Positive feedback on the distance learning course on maritime cybersecurity awareness launched by EMSA on its MaCKs platform in July 2018 has led to the decision to make the course available to the public. The [modules](#) were published on the EMSA website in March 2019 and look at both the international and European legal frameworks in place as well as the challenges to be overcome.



EFCA AND EMSA SIGN NEW AGREEMENT EXTENDING COOPERATION TO NEW AREAS

The service level agreement between EMSA and EFCA which traditionally included only maritime data sharing for fisheries monitoring and control has been revised, extending cooperation between the two agencies into new areas. The agreement now includes the possibility for EMSA to support EFCA activities with [Remotely Piloted Aircraft System-based services](#) as well as with suitable vessels from its network of [standby oil spill response vessels](#). EMSA recently received a request to equip an EFCA chartered vessel temporarily with pollution response equipment – the latest revision to the cooperation agreement covers this service. As a result, another vessel will soon be ready for pollution response operations and can be added to the resources available to member states in case of a spill at sea. Closer cooperation between both agencies is foreseen in the respective founding regulations in the area of coast guard-related support to member state authorities.



RECENTLY PUBLISHED 'OUTLOOK 2019' GIVES VISUAL AND CONCISE VIEW OF AGENCY'S UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

EMSA's [Outlook 2019](#) contains the concrete action and steps the Agency plans to take in 2019 to deliver on its multi-annual strategic objectives. It represents a condensed version of the Single Programming Document. The publication is organised by activity with planned developments outlined in a short narrative. The outcome is reported in the corresponding Consolidated Annual Activity Report which shows the results achieved against the objectives set.



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VACANCIES: Administrative Officer for the Common Information Sharing Environment-CISE (deadline: 2/5/2019); Test Designer for Frontex (deadline: 2/5/2019)

PROCUREMENT: Legal Services for the transitional phase of CISE (30/4/2019); Service contracts for stand-by oil spill recovery vessels (2/5/2019). See website for more.