

EMSA HOSTS JOINT THEMATIC WORKSHOP ON COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

On 18-19 April EMSA hosted a thematic workshop together with the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF), currently under Belgian chairmanship, on the topic of the European Green Deal which is aimed at making the EU climate neutral by 2050. The workshop was the opportunity to take stock of the Green Deal and its application to the maritime sector through the Fit-for-55 legislative package and focused on implementation and enforcement at sea from the perspective of EU Member State authorities. Belgian, French, Danish, and Italian authorities all took to the floor to share their experience in this area. Pollution prevention and response use cases were also examined particularly in light of the technology and assets made available by EMSA, EFCA and Frontex to support environmental protection. The second day was dedicated to the second edition of the European Maritime Transport Environment Report (EMTER 2.0) whose release in 2024 will shed light on the sustainable transition underway in the maritime sector.



EMSA DONATES POLLUTION RESPONSE EQUIPMENT TO UKRAINE AND GEORGIA

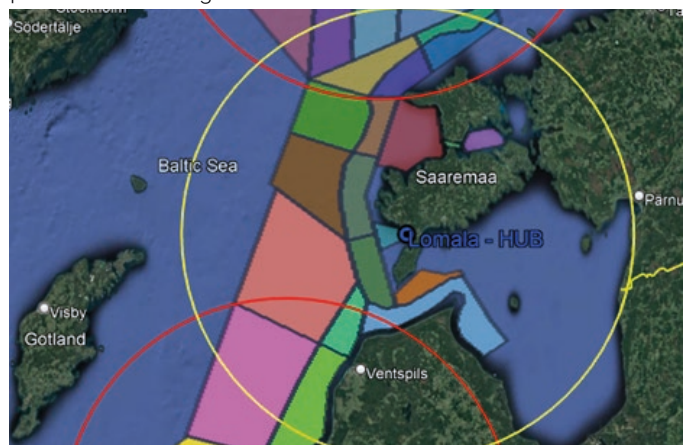
EMSA has taken action to minimise the potential impact of military operations on the marine environment in the Black Sea region, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As part of the BCSEA project, EMSA purchased pollution response equipment to donate to Ukraine and Georgia, two of the project's beneficiary countries. The purchased equipment, consisting of two medium-sized oil recovery skimmer systems and two low-speed containment V-sweep systems per country, was received in September 2022 and has been stored in Varna, Bulgaria, where EMSA retains the Equipment Assistance Service stockpile for the Black Sea. As part of the BCSEA II project, the equipment was donated to Ukraine and Georgia at a signing ceremony held at EMSA premises in March 2023. During the ceremony, EMSA's Executive Director signed agreements with Ms Tamar Ioseliani, Director of the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia, and Mr Andrii Kreitor, Deputy Head of the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority. The purchased equipment will be transferred from Varna to Odessa (Ukraine) and Batumi (Georgia). Dedicated training sessions for equipment operators from Ukraine and Georgia are taking place in April and June, respectively. EMSA's donation of pollution response equipment is a vital step towards protecting the marine environment in the Black Sea region in the aftermath of the Russian invasion.



Special training session held in Bulgaria in which Ukrainian delegates learnt how to deploy two different types of pollution response equipment.

EMSA'S RPAS BALTIC REGIONAL SERVICE BEGINS OPERATIONS IN ESTONIA, FINLAND AND LATVIA

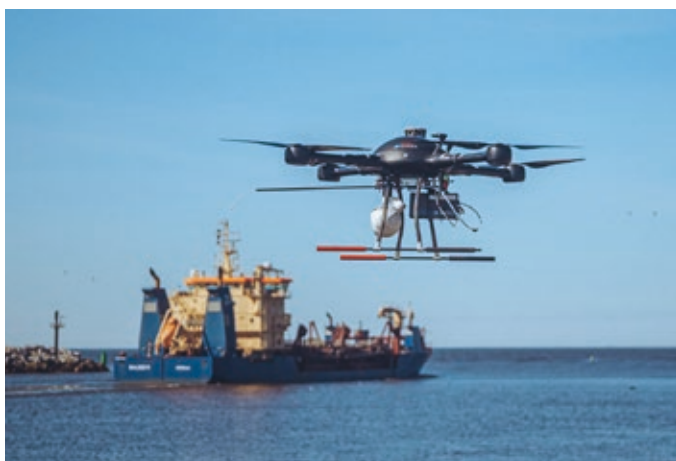
EMSA has announced the launch of its RPAS Baltic regional service, which will operate from mid-April to September in Estonia, Finland, and Latvia. The service will leverage the experience gained from previous years in the region and is part of EMSA's regional RPAS strategy. The RPAS Baltic regional service will be conducted in coordination with multiple authorities from the three countries, and a consolidated framework has been established to ensure seamless operations. The flights will be followed live from various command centres, including the West Coast Guard Finland Command Centre, the Finnish Border Guard Coordination Centre, JRCC Tallinn in Estonia, and MRCC Riga in Latvia. Operational command will be handed over to each country as the RPAS crosses their respective borders. Equipped with several sensors, including multiple cameras and a maritime radar, the RPAS will be deployed from the Estonia island of Saaremaa. It has an endurance of nine hours and will cover a large sea area of the three countries, spanning 500 km from north to south. This regional service is a part of EMSA's Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO), which involves the participation of Member States, EFCA, and Frontex. The service is expected to contribute significantly to the MMO during the summer months. Overall, the RPAS Baltic regional service is a critical step in enhancing maritime safety and surveillance in the region, and EMSA is proud to be leading this effort.



The aircraft will cover a large sea area spanning 500 km from north to south.

RPAS OPERATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING LAUNCHED IN LITHUANIA

EMSA RPAS service has returned to Lithuania this April after a successful operation in 2021. The focus this time is on monitoring emissions and enforcing environmental laws in the port of Klaipėda, the Curonian Lagoon, and the Baltic Sea. The RPAS will be used to observe possible cases of pollution caused by oil and waste in port, assess the safety of ship navigation, and monitor ship emissions. This year, a versatile quadrocopter has been chosen for the RPAS operation. It has the flexibility to provide services from multiple sites to Lithuanian users, including the Environmental Protection Department under the Ministry of Environment, Klaipėda State Seaport Directorate, the Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, and the Lithuanian Sea Museum. The RPAS is equipped with an emission sensor for Sulphur and Nitrogen Oxide measurements and capable optical cameras in the visible and infrared spectral range, allowing for multipurpose operations. Multiple flights of up to 50 minutes will be performed each day for the next three months.



The RPAS operation is part of a joint effort to enforce environmental laws and improve environmental protection in Lithuania.

EMSA HOLDS FIRST REMOTELY OPERATED VEHICLES FAMILIARISATION SESSION FOR EU-EEA MEMBER STATES

EMSA recently hosted its very first Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) familiarisation session for learners from nine EU-EEA Member States. Over the course of two days, 14 participants were introduced to the wide array of ROV available on the market, with a special focus on the high-performance observation-class ROV offered within the EMSA portfolio. The session offered an in-depth exploration of the logistics and operational challenges faced during ROV interventions, including mission planning constraints like weather conditions and sea currents, as well as the unique characteristics of the support vessels required to carry out successful operations. Adding an extra layer of interest, the attendees were able to put their skills to the test with practical use cases and a live demonstration of ROV capabilities. Valuable feedback provided by delegates will help EMSA to create an even more engaging and impactful training programme for future sessions.



ROV help bring greater clarity to underwater accident investigation



EMSA AND EUNAVFOR ATALANTA STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN COUNTER-PIRACY EFFORTS

EMSA recently hosted a 'Train the Trainer' session and a Service Coordination meeting at its premises, as part of the Agency's cooperation agreement with EUNAVFOR Atalanta. The meeting focused on improving the EMSA IMS service, which has been instrumental in the success of EUNAVFOR Atalanta's counter-piracy military operation off the Horn of Africa and in the Western Indian Ocean. During the meeting, EUNAVFOR Atalanta expressed their appreciation for EMSA's IMS service and discussed several ways to improve it, including the transfer of AIS images captured by frigates and their integration into the IMS. Additionally, EUNAVFOR Atalanta invited EMSA to present its IMS activities in future meetings with stakeholders, such as the one planned with the Shipping Industry in London later this year. The cooperation between EMSA and EUNAVFOR Atalanta demonstrates the importance of collaboration in ensuring the safety and security of our seas.



EMSA ACADEMY DELIVERS FIRST EDITION OF BASIC LEVEL FLAG STATE INSPECTION CURRICULUM TO 39 PARTICIPANTS FROM EU AND EEA COUNTRIES

The EMSA Academy has successfully completed the first edition of the Basic Level of the Curriculum on Principles and Techniques for Flag State Inspections. The 12-week course, delivered through a structured modular format, engaged 39 participants from EU Member States and EEA countries. Participants were provided with a wide range of online and face-to-face teaching and learning activities, including interactive sessions and case studies, to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out Flag State inspections professionally and effectively in accordance with the required standards established by law and benchmarked industry practice. The curriculum, which is part of an overarching programme intended to develop the necessary competences for Flag State Inspectors, assessed participants at the end of the course to ensure they had acquired fundamental knowledge on the relevant EU and international legislation related to Flag State enforcement. Additionally, the curriculum provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the key concepts and principles that underpin ship inspections, including stability, safe manning, safety of the crew, and required certificates and documents to be held on board. The intermediate level of the curriculum is set to follow later in 2023, with the goal of providing a full class of trained Flag State Inspectors by mid-2024. This achievement will help to ensure the safety and compliance of ships, crews, and passengers across the EU and EEA regions.



168 PSC OFFICERS TRAINED IN FIVE FACE-TO-FACE SEMINARS BY EMSA

EMSA recently conducted five Port State Control (PSC) seminars from September 2022 to March 2023. The seminars catered to the needs of all EU Member States and non-EU states under the Paris MoU. A total of 168 PSC officers were trained in each four-day seminar, which was conducted face-to-face at EMSA's Lisbon premises and in a Member State. The seminars covered a wide range of topics, primarily addressing Paris MoU procedures, but also introduced new tools and techniques. One of the highlights of the seminars was the use of EMSA's [Virtual Reality Environment for Ship Inspection \(VRESI\)](#), which provided participants with the opportunity to perform virtual PSC inspections onboard a cargo ship. The latest functionalities of RuleCheck, a tool that provides guidance and reference on safety-related IMO and ILO conventions, and EU regulations applicable to ships, were also presented in detail, which increased the officers' capabilities in identifying appropriate deficiencies. Apart from lectures and case studies, the seminars also served as a platform for professional exchange, allowing participants to discuss common topics faced while boarding a ship or in the aftermath of a vessel's detention. The success of the seminars highlights EMSA's commitment to enhancing maritime safety and compliance, ultimately contributing to the development of a safer and more sustainable maritime industry.



MARINE EQUIPMENT: 46TH MARED HORIZONTAL COMMITTEE MEETING CONCLUDES WITH PRODUCTIVE OUTCOMES

The 46th Horizontal Committee meeting of the MarED Group of Notified Bodies, responsible for certifying marine equipment before it is placed onboard EU Member State-flagged ships, was held on 22-23 March. The meeting, organised by EMSA, the Technical Secretariat of the Group, took place in person at EMSA's premises, with online participation available. More than 50 participants, including European Commission officials, EU Maritime Administration observers, and equipment manufacturers associations, took part in the meeting. The EMSA MED Database was fully utilised, including its Documents and Recommendations Repository, Events, and Discussion features. The meeting, chaired by Mr Laurent Courregelongue from Bureau Veritas, was highly productive, with the group analysing over 20 technical documents on Life-Saving Appliances, Fire Safety, MARPOL, and Navigation Equipment, among other categories. The group finalised six technical recommendations, which are interpretations of standards to ensure a harmonised approach in their implementation. These recommendations will be sent to the Committee of Safe Seas (COSS) for endorsement and implementation by EU Notified Bodies on future certification processes. The outcomes of the meeting are expected to enhance safety and compliance in the EU marine equipment industry.



The MED portal contains more than 200 000 pieces of marine equipment, serving more than 7 000 users worldwide, and is available both in desktop and mobile versions.

EMSA SHOWCASES COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING NEXT GENERATION OF MARITIME PROFESSIONALS AT FUTURÁLIA

EMSA displayed its commitment to fostering the next generation of maritime professionals by participating in Futurália, Portugal's biggest education, career and employment fair, on 22-25 March. The Agency's exhibition stand drew the attention of many students, academics, recent graduates, and other visitors who had the opportunity to see a model of one of EMSA's standby oil spill response vessels and a lightweight RPAS quadcopter for pollution response and multipurpose maritime surveillance. Additionally, several EMSA promotional videos, including a newly created traineeship video, were also displayed. Visitors to the stand could also experience a vessel inspection using virtual reality goggles. EMSA's dedicated team presented EMSA's work and discussed career and traineeship opportunities with interested participants. Under the theme of 'How to attract talent' in the maritime sector, EMSA staff introduced the Agency's tasks and responsibilities and presented the informal 'EMSA Women in Transport network' together with relevant initiatives that contribute to attracting young female talent to the Agency, such as the Ambassador's Programme and the Speed Networking Initiative. EMSA's participation in the fair aimed to encourage careers in the maritime sector, particularly among young female students, and to promote EMSA as an ideal place to pursue a career in maritime, technology, and other fields where the Agency **offers traineeships**.



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VACANCIES: Project Officer for Integrated Maritime Services to EFCA (11/5/23); Traineeship 2023-2024 (26/5/23); See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: Study investigating the safety of ammonia as fuel on ships (11/5/2023); Delivery of ASP/CSP services for the EU LRIT CDC (11/5/2023); See website for more.