

SPAIN'S TRANSPORT MINISTER GAINS INSIGHT ON EMSA'S OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Spanish minister for infrastructure, transport and housing, Ana Pastor and secretary general for transport, Carmen Libro Pintado paid a visit to EMSA on 28 April. After meeting EMSA's executive director, they covered several issues with a special focus on EMSA's operational tools.



Visiting the MSS operations room where EMSA staff have access to the very latest information from each of the agency's maritime monitoring systems

OBSERVATION CAPABILITIES PRESENTED TO MALTESE VISITOR



On 23 April Colonel Claudio Spiteri, head of operations, intelligence and plans of the Maltese armed forces visited EMSA. In view of the current situation in the Central Mediterranean Sea, EMSA's capabilities in the field of vessel positioning and earth observation data were outlined. EMSA's pollution response services were also presented as the Maltese armed forces are responsible for all operational activities at sea.

SAFESEANET UPGRADE TO BRING ENHANCED INFORMATION EXCHANGE

On 8 April 2015, EMSA successfully deployed a new version of SafeSeaNet. This new version is a major release and is the final outcome of a long process that began in 2011 to adapt SafeSeaNet to the requirements of the reporting formalities Directive 2010/65/EU by 1 June 2015. Member states are also updating their national SafeSeaNet systems to comply with these new requirements. SafeSeaNet version 3 allows the exchange of information regarding ship-generated waste and cargo residues and ship security, as well as additional information on dangerous and polluting goods carried on board ships. It also includes an enhanced procedure for exchanging reports received from mandatory ship reporting systems. The transition to the new version is progressing well without major problems, with a number of member states already carrying out tests with their national SafeSeaNet systems.

EMSA VISIT TO MALTA CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED COOPERATION

On 23 April, EMSA's executive director Markku Mylly met Joe Mizzi, Malta's minister for transport and infrastructure. The meeting took place in the context of the first Mare Forum which gathers representatives to discuss and debate topical issues concerning the future of shipping and maritime industries in the Mediterranean, African and European regions.



NEW SOFTWARE TOOL FOR MAR-CIS MARINE CHEMICAL INFORMATION

EMSA has released a new software tool with detailed information on chemical substances frequently transported by sea. The tool contains information sheets on chemical substances for pollution response. They include specific data on the substances' maritime transport requirements, as well as chemical and physical properties relevant for emergency response operations on board ships. Some datasheets include information on seawater solubility. Currently, the tool covers 213 substances and is available to EU/EFTA member states.

RULECHECK AND DISTANCE LEARNING PACKAGE OFFERED TO SAFEMED III BENEFICIARIES

Eight SafeMed III beneficiary countries now have access to both EMSA's Distance Learning Package and the RuleCheck information database. The overall aim is increase the effectiveness of port state control inspections and to contribute to enhanced maritime safety standards throughout the Mediterranean region. The learning package developed by EMSA contains 18 modules on port state control inspections in line with IMO and MedMoU procedures. While this tool has been available since 13 April, more modules are set to follow. A technical solution has also been devised to allow users to have profile-tailored access to RuleCheck. SAFEMED III beneficiary countries can now access all the contents and functionalities of RuleCheck except for the Paris MoU documents. Similarly, a Paris MoU user can get access to all content except for the MedMoU documents. The provision of both tools has seen the number of potential users grow from 2 000 to 2 500.

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CAREERS: SNE Project Officer for Marine Accident Investigation (deadline: 22/05/2015)

PROCUREMENT: Supply of specialised oil pollution response equipment (deadline: 5/06/2015); Service contract for Equipment Assistance Service (deadline: 15/06/2015).