

TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER VIOLETA BULC ADDRESSES ALL EMSA STAFF

On 6 March, EU Transport Commissioner Violeta Bulc paid a visit to EMSA. Three years since her first visit, Ms Bulc spoke of a different political context, "The EU is back," she said. "The winds are back in our sails." In this short time, she spoke of the various changes and challenges, as well as of the rapid progress made - thanks in part to the new technologies enabling us to perform better. She complimented EMSA on its RPAS service and on its efforts in promoting alternative energy sources. She stated that the four key priorities remain: decarbonisation, digitalisation, humanisation and internationalisation. She called for more ambitious, bolder action on a wider, global scale - raising the level of maritime safety even further afield. She encouraged EMSA to remain at the forefront of maritime safety as well as to "stay dynamic".



A visit to the Maritime Support Services control room gave Ms Bulc the opportunity to hear about two of EMSA's latest features - THETIS-MRV for CO₂ emissions and RPAS maritime surveillance

EUROPEAN MARINE CASUALTY INFORMATION PLATFORM REVAMPED

A new version of EMCIP (European Marine Casualty Information Platform) is going live in June 2018 with a refurbished layout and improved data reporting and data analysis features. EMCIP is the EU marine casualty information reporting and analysis system managed by EMSA since 2009. In 2014 the Agency decided to remove EMCIP from the European Co-ordination Centre for Accident and Incident Reporting Systems (ECCAIRS) and to build a new independent database that would fall under EMSA's portfolio of maritime applications. The new database will offer streamlined interfaces for data entry and data retrieval, state-of-the-art data analysis features and innovative investigation support tools.

MARITIME SECURITY ADVISORY GROUP AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN EMSA

On 28 February, the 50th Stakeholders' Advisory Group meeting and 71st meeting of the Committee for Maritime Security, established by Regulation (EC) No 725/2004, were held in EMSA. Both meetings were very well attended, with representatives from 18 industry associations/organisations for the stakeholders' meeting and 19 member states - including observers from Norway and Iceland - the EFTA Surveillance Authority and ENISA being present during the two meetings. There was an exchange of views and information on various maritime security subjects related to the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 725/2004 and Directive 2005/65/EC. A number of subjects featured EMSA's supportive role towards the European Commission and member states for maritime security, particularly by facilitating information sharing, awareness-raising and exchange of best practices.



EMSA'S RPAS ON MULTIPURPOSE MARITIME SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS IN PORTUGAL

EMSA has now completed three months of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) assisted operations with the REACT Consortium in Portugal. More than 200 flight hours have been clocked in operations scanning the coast to identify and monitor illegal activities mainly in the areas of fisheries control and drug trafficking, among others. For marine pollution surveillance, a possible oil spill will be detected via EMSA's satellite-based CleanSeaNet service and subsequently confirmed during an RPAS flight. For marine traffic control, RPAS are assisting in the monitoring of traffic separation schemes for the purpose of collision avoidance or accident monitoring. The initial official request for RPAS came from a coordination committee (CNCM), which brings together several Portuguese Authorities. RPAS operations are set to continue for the Portuguese Authorities until the end of March.



TRAINING AUDITORS FOR HIGHER MARITIME SAFETY LEVELS THROUGHOUT THE MEDITERRANEAN

Within the framework of the SAFEMED IV project, EMSA held a training course on 5-9 February for auditors under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Two experienced lead auditors and an IMO representative delivered the training course to 16 participants from the beneficiary countries (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia). The training included lectures on the theoretical framework of the IMO Instrument Implementation Code which were combined with practical exercises and workshops. Throughout the training, it was clear that such activity is paramount not only for those countries which are due to undergo the IMSAS in the forthcoming years but to foster a greater understanding of the main international requirements within the maritime domain. The participants had a very high level of interaction and engagement, and demonstrated a spirit of genuine regional cooperation.

Mediterranean Sea Project



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PUBLICATIONS: EMSA Outlook 2018; Automatic Detection and Alert Triggering of Ship Behaviour; Guidance on LNG Bunkering to Port Authorities and Administrations

VACANCIES: National Experts in Professional Training Programme (deadline: 12/3/2018)

PROCUREMENT: Provision of training courses for accident investigators (deadline: 23/03/2018)