

COAST GUARD HANDBOOK: MEETING WITH MEMBER STATE REPRESENTATIVES

On 29 January, a kick-off meeting got underway for the development of a Handbook on European Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions. This handbook is the follow up from the 2016 amendments to the Founding Regulations of EFCA, EMSA and Frontex and is created in the context of interagency cooperation to provide support to Member State organisations tasked with coast guard functions. Some 32 member state experts, appointed by the administrative board members, attended the kick-off workshop in Lisbon. Also in attendance were representatives from the European Commission (DG HOME, MARE and MOVE) as well as the three agencies. Overall good initial progress was made with the general scope being agreed in principle, namely a catalogue of services available through the agencies that could support member state organisations carrying out coast guard activities as well as a factsheet identifying the relevant organisation per coast guard function per country. Member states supported the initiative of a Coast Guard Handbook recognising the potential benefits for their end users.



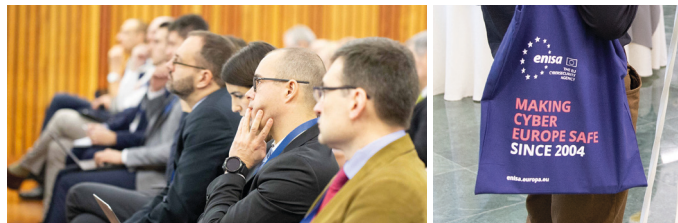
NEW DISPERSANT STOCKPILE SET UP IN RAVENNA WITH POSSIBILITY OF MOBILISATION ACROSS EU WATERS

EMSA has established a new dispersant stockpile associated with its [Equipment Assistance Service](#) (EAS) in the Adriatic Sea, Ravenna (Italy). The dispersant stockpile consists of 200 tonnes of Radiagreen OSD and 200 tonnes of Dasic Slickgone NS. The new dispersant stockpile is intended to serve primarily the geographical area of the Adriatic Sea, however, subject to request, it may be mobilised to any other part of Europe. To enhance the new dispersant stock with a spraying capability for Vessels of Opportunity, EMSA will provide a portable spraying system for the EAS arrangement in the first half of 2019. Currently, EMSA maintains six operational dispersant stocks comprising a total of 1400 tonnes, four associated with the vessel network and two with EAS arrangements.



COOPERATION TO RAISE CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS ACROSS TRANSPORT MODES

The first European Conference on Transport Cybersecurity was held in EMSA's premises in Lisbon on 23 January, gathering 170 representatives from across the various transport modes. The conference was organised by the EU Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) in close cooperation with the European Commission (DG MOVE), the EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the EU Agency for Railways (ERA) and EMSA. The conference gave participants from both the public and private sphere the opportunity to look at [cybersecurity](#) from a multifaceted and multimodal perspective. They discussed the legal framework in place for cybersecurity at EU level and its relevance for the transport sector, as well as the need for cooperation in the future. "In this increasingly digital age, we face borderless cybersecurity risks and we must take a borderless response to our cooperation across all transport modes," said Maja Markovčić Kostelac, EMSA's Executive Director.



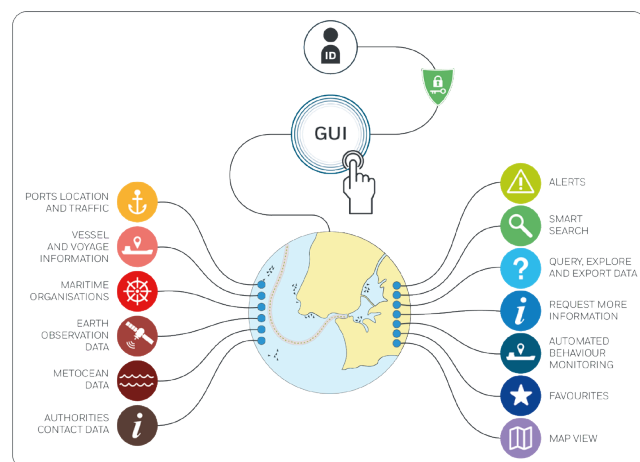
RPAS DRONE FLIGHTS GET UNDERWAY IN SPAIN TO ASSIST SASEMAR IN ITS SEARCH AND RESCUE AND POLLUTION MONITORING OPERATIONS

EMSA's service of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems is being used by the Spanish maritime safety agency SASEMAR in the southern province of Huelva for the purpose of identifying and monitoring oil spills as well as for additional assistance during search and rescue missions. SASEMAR is using this opportunity to see first-hand how RPAS can be of value to [multipurpose maritime surveillance operations](#). The RPAS drone operations, running until early March, will be coordinated at a distance and the data monitored by officers at the SASEMAR Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Huelva. The remote pilot and payload operator will be directing the RPAS flights from a ground control station at the Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial (INTA). From Madrid, the national search and rescue coordination and operations centre will participate in the operations monitoring the flights using EMSA's RPAS data centre. This data centre offers an online user interface displaying the flight data in detail (images, video, flight path, etc.).



EUROPOL TO BENEFIT FROM EMSA'S INTEGRATED MARITIME SERVICES

EMSA and the EU agency for law enforcement cooperation, Europol, are to cooperate more closely together following the signature of a working arrangement by their respective executive directors on 18 December 2018. Under this new arrangement, EMSA will provide Europol with access to maritime and surveillance information services to support Europol activities. User training, feedback mechanisms and the collection of Europol requirements will be an integrated part of this cooperation. EMSA's [Integrated Maritime Services](#) will be used by Europol staff in the areas of law enforcement and organised crime activities at sea. They will be able to access a comprehensive and up-to-date maritime picture tailored directly to their specific needs. Both the IMS historical track and [Automatic Behaviour Monitoring](#) capabilities will be particularly useful to follow vessels of interest and support relevant investigations.



EMSA'S QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM EXTENDED TO COVER GREATER GROUND

EMSA has implemented and certified a [Quality Management System](#) covering the visits to member states and the inspection of Recognised Organisations and non-EU country compliance with STCW requirements (V&I QMS) since 2016. The V&I QMS is certified against ISO Standard 9001:2015 by TÜV Rheinland Cert GmbH and audited annually to ensure effective implementation. In 2018, the scope of the V&IQMS was extended by including the Maritime Security visits to member states and the Horizontal Analysis of the findings after a cycle of visits. The extended V&I QMS was successfully re-certified in December, outlining management commitment for effective use of ISO Standards as a benchmark of our performance.



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VACANCIES: Maritime Support Services Officer with IT background (deadline: 25/02/2019)

PROCUREMENT: Expressions of interest for an external database of experts (19/12/2020); Expressions of interest for an external database of experts for capacity building activities (31/10/2020); Provision of oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation training courses (28/2/2019)