

EMSA DIRECTOR APPEARS BEFORE EU PARLIAMENT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

EMSA's Executive Director appeared before the European Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism on 10 November for the third time since taking up her duties. Unsurprisingly, the focus of Ms Markovčić Kostelac's intervention was on the impact of COVID-19 where she said shipping had demonstrated resilience in ensuring the transportation of essential supplies while serving the global economy. Nevertheless, the cruise industry, flag and port state control and the vulnerability of seafarers were all areas of particular concern. EMSA's response included: creating a single point of reference for national COVID-19 measures; sharing information related to the cruise ships in and around EU waters; developing guidance for safe cruise ship operations; and, a weekly report on ship traffic based on ship calls in EU ports. In addition to this, Ms Markovčić Kostelac also presented the new areas of activity for the Agency in the upcoming year in each of EMSA's strategic priority areas.



By simulating an actual ship, EMSA can provide remote training for ship inspections more effectively

ANNUAL EUROPEAN COAST GUARD EVENT 2020 - "THE NEW NORMAL FOR EU COAST GUARD COOPERATION"

The Annual European Coast Guard Event for 2020 under the theme of "The new normal for EU Coast Guard cooperation" was held virtually on 10 December. The event offered a dynamic virtual platform for the participants to reflect on the work accomplished so far, and particularly for the representatives of national authorities handling coast guard responsibilities to put forward priorities for cooperation in the future. As chair for 2020, EMSA hosted this event which took place within the framework of European coast guard cooperation between EMSA, and its sister agencies in this field EFCA and Frontex. Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac underlined the value of interagency cooperation as evidenced in the first four years of action. The key, she said, is to continue to shape cooperation in line with the needs of the national authorities, assisting them in the practical implementation of their coast guard duties. Concrete examples include combining data for an enhanced maritime awareness picture and providing remotely piloted aircraft systems to extend operational capacities.



CYBUTRYNE TO BE BANNED FROM ANTI-FOULING SYSTEMS INTERNATIONALLY

Cybutryne, a biocide used in anti-fouling paints for ship hulls, is the latest substance to be prohibited following the outcome of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 75) which approved its addition to Annex 1 of the AFS Convention. While Cybutryne is effective in preventing the attachment of marine life to hull surfaces, it is extremely harmful to marine ecosystems to the point that its use has already been restricted in Europe. With technical support from EMSA and ECHA (the European Chemicals Agency), the EU put forward the subject at IMO and the resulting amendment will see the use of cybutryne further restricted at international level. The IMO guidelines related to the AFS Convention will also now be revised. Throughout the process, EMSA will continue to provide technical support to the European Commission.

EMSA ADMIN BOARD MEETS TO CHART WAY AHEAD FOR AGENCY IN 2021-22

The EMSA Administrative Board held its 59th meeting on 11-12 November, gathering 41 participants from 24 member states via videoconference. This third meeting of the year is key for the programming cycle of the Agency, with the adoption of the final work programme for 2021 and initial discussions concerning the work programme for 2022. In this context, one of the important decisions was the examination and approval of a request for assistance from Romania, supported by Bulgaria, for the establishment of an **Equipment Assistance Service (EAS)** in the Black Sea. As usual, the meeting is also an opportunity for the Agency to provide specific updates such as on the key outcomes of the SAFEMASS study (on autonomous shipping), as well as to get a virtual tour of the recently completed eLaboratory and Virtual Reality room. Finally, the board renewed the terms of office of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the EMSA Administrative Board for an additional three-year period (until 4 December 2023). The Executive Director thanked the Chairman, Andreas Nordseth, and the Deputy Chairman, Nicola Carlone, for their valuable service to the Agency and looked forward to future work under their efficient guidance.



Virtual reality is an increasingly effective option for EMSA activities, especially in the current climate

GREEN LIGHT FOR EMSA TO ENTER SECOND AGREEMENT ON CISE DEVELOPMENT

EMSA's November Administrative Board gave its green light for the Agency to sign the Second Grant Agreement with the European Commission's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Directorate General for the **Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE)**. The transitional phase of CISE, aiming for a coherent evolution of the CISE network and to achieve an operational CISE, started in April 2019 when the first agreement was signed. The initial duration of the project was set to two years. EMSA was further invited to apply for a second grant agreement to enable an extended scope of the transitional phase and to accommodate up to 30 nodes, implement a thematic node, develop operational scenarios, support the analysis to address the classified network, and to follow the standardisation process for the CISE data and service models. Following the approval from the Administrative Board, the duration of the transitional phase is expected to extend until October 2023. The label 'transitional phase' does not exclude the transition to an operational network during this period, depending on the progress made.



INTERACTIVE EMSA-EEA WORKSHOP CALLS ON PARTICIPANTS TO SHARE VIEWS ON FIRST REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE OF MARITIME TRANSPORT

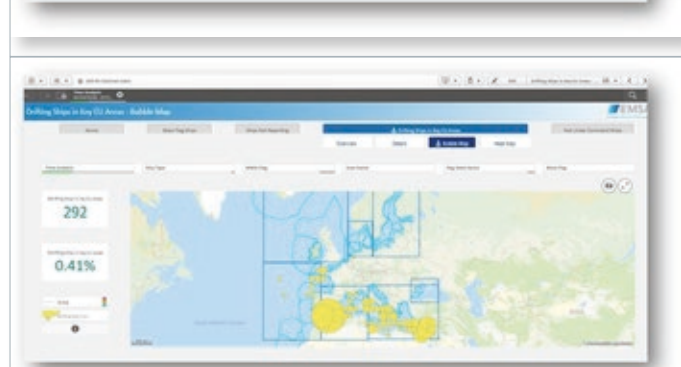
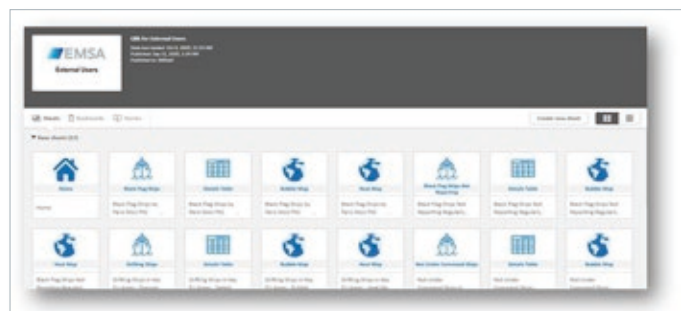
On 2 December a jointly held EMSA-EEA workshop gathered together over 130 participants from maritime and environmental administrations, industry associations, civil society organisations and the European Commission to voice their views on the first draft of the European Maritime Transport Environmental Report as part of a consultation process which runs until 23 December. The workshop was the opportunity for participants to intervene at a vital stage in the production of the report, where the input is expected to enrich content, close data gaps and help inform policy makers for future decisions. Air emissions, water pollution, marine litter and underwater noise are some of the areas targeted by the report which will provide a baseline for future discussions and decisions.



The final report is expected to be published by summer 2021, after all submissions have been carefully considered

EMSA LAUNCHES A MARITIME ANALYTICS PROTOTYPE IN COOPERATION WITH FRONTEx AND EU MEMBER STATES

EMSA has launched a maritime analytics prototype to support the decision-making and risk analysis of member state authorities and other EU bodies. The prototype which was financed by Frontex draws on a combination of different data sets to present aggregated statistics on Paris MoU 'Black Flag' ships operating around the EU. The focus is on ships which are not reporting regularly, drifting into key areas of the EU and on ships considered 'Not under command'. The tool is gradually being rolled out to Frontex and IMS member state users, and will enhance the portfolio of Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) scenarios and advanced analytics services.



A HARMONISED APPROACH TO RAISING MARINE EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

The 41th MARED Horizontal Committee meeting took place on 4-5 November gathering together representatives from Notified Bodies which are authorised to certify marine equipment for use on board EU flagged ships. This virtual event was organised by EMSA, as technical secretariat of the group. For the first time, the functionalities of the new EMSA MED Portal were presented, including the events section, the document repository, recommendations, and the discussion board. The meeting, chaired by Bureau Veritas and assisted by EMSA project officers, was intense with more than 45 technical documents analysed by the group from a range of different categories, including fire safety, life-saving appliances and MARPOL, as well as radio and navigation-related equipment. The main outcome of the meeting was the finalisation of ten draft recommendations to ensure a harmonised approach to the implementation of the marine equipment standards concerned.

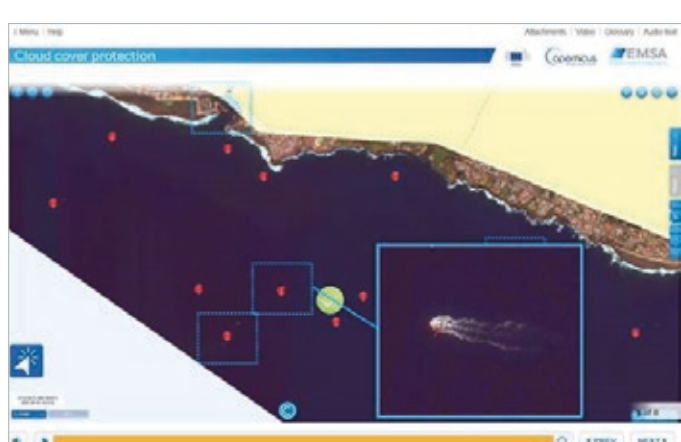


8TH EU SATELLITE-AIS COLLABORATIVE FORUM HELD BY EMSA

On 18 November, the 8th EU Satellite-AIS Collaborative Forum meeting took place online. The forum, which was organised and chaired by EMSA, is open to any EU member state and/or public national administration with a programme or interest in the development of a Satellite AIS capacity at national level. Representatives from Norway, Germany, and Poland participated. The forum discussed technical matters related to existing Sat-AIS operational services including national plans for the deployment of new satellites with AIS and VDES payloads, future technological developments, potential cooperation in using space and ground segment infrastructure, and sharing national Sat-AIS data with EMSA users.

COPERNICUS MARITIME SURVEILLANCE - VIRTUAL TRAINING SESSIONS ARE GAINING INCREASED MOMENTUM

EMSA delivered a training course aimed at operational users of the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) service. The objective of the course was to foster the use of the service by promoting a better understanding of the earth observation information and improving users' knowledge of EMSA's **SafeSeaNet Ecosystem Graphical Interface (SEG)**. The four virtual training sessions were attended by 58 participants from several EU countries and organisations. EMSA's trainers provided live demos on the SEG, addressing the main functionalities needed to interact with the earth observation information. In parallel, EMSA launched a new CMS eLearning module which introduces the different optical planning modes available and their added value to users' maritime operations. Users can enrol in the course from the EMSA portal and follow CMS news on social media.



emsa.europa.eu

VACANCIES: Project Officer for Maritime Digital Services (AD7) (6/1/2021); Maritime Support Services Duty Officer with IT background (FGIV) (13/1/2021). See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: RPAS services for multipurpose maritime surveillance (21/1/2021). Refurbishment of EMSA building (29/1/2021). See website for more.