

EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY SETS FOCUS ON THE BLUE ECONOMY

Our coastal regions are home to 214 million people and generate 43% of the EU's GDP making the blue economy an exciting growth sector, explained European Maritime Affairs Commissioner Karmenu Vella during the opening of the 2019 [European Maritime Day conference](#) in Lisbon on 16 May. This year's event attracted just short of 1500 participants from 63 different countries. It targeted maritime professionals, entrepreneurs and ocean leaders from businesses, governments, public institutions, NGOs and academia was co-organised by the European Commission (DG MARE), Portugal's Ministry of the Sea and the Lisbon City Council. This was an excellent opportunity for EMSA, EFCA and Frontex to present how their joint cooperation is boosting the maritime situational awareness and efficiency of national authorities carrying out coast guard functions. It was also the perfect occasion to launch the transitional phase of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE), an important building block of the overall EU maritime surveillance framework. As these and many other workshops and breakout sessions got underway, EMSA and its sister agencies manned stands at the exhibition area. At the close of the event, a guided tour of EMSA was arranged for all interested parties and culminated in a welcome, ad hoc visit to the Praça Europa from the President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.



COMMON INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT ENTERS TRANSITIONAL PHASE TO BE COORDINATED BY EMSA

The 1st CISE Stakeholder Group meeting took place at EMSA, in Lisbon, on 15 May. The [Common Information Sharing Environment \(CISE\)](#) is an initiative which fosters the sharing of information between maritime authorities, across sectors and borders, with the aim of enabling enhanced maritime awareness and effective action at sea. A Grant Agreement signed on 16 April 2019 between EMSA and the European Commission's DG MARE entrusts EMSA with the management of this transitional phase paving the way for the operational implementation of CISE. The European Commission tasked EMSA to set up and coordinate this preparatory action. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) will support the work in view of its long-term involvement in CISE. The commitment of the member states as information providers is essential to the effectiveness of CISE, as the information exchange takes place on a voluntary basis.



EMSA PARTICIPATES IN PARIS MOU ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

EMSA participated in the Paris Memorandum of Understanding's 52nd committee meeting held in Saint Petersburg, Russia on 13-17 May. EMSA is the technical advisor to the European Commission for matters related to Port State Control and also acts as data manager for the inspection system known as THETIS. In addition, EMSA provides training to existing and new Port State Control Officers (through courses held in house and remote eLearning). The Agency leads various task forces, including one on the evaluation of the New Inspection Regime as well as one on data quality and the use of the inspection system. At this meeting, the Paris MoU committee agreed to a new method of calculating flag state and Recognised Organisation performance tables. The committee also decided to establish a task force on digitalisation and the effect on inspections. A pilot project proposed by EMSA with the purpose of verifying information on statutory certificates as received electronically from flag states and Recognised Organisations was well received and endorsed.



EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS GATHER AT EMSA

The Safety and Environment Committee (SEC) of the [European Community Shipowners' Associations \(ECSA\)](#) was hosted on 27-29 May at EMSA's premises in Lisbon, Portugal. Similar to previous years, the ECSA committee and EMSA representatives had the chance to exchange technical views on topics of common interest, particular attention was given to Fire Safety and Damage Stability of Ro-Ro Passenger Ships, LNG Bunkering Guidance and the dedicated EU information system which caters for the provisions of the EU MRV Regulation ([THETIS-MRV](#)).



IMO MEMBER STATES AUDIT SCHEME IN ICELAND

EMSA participated as an observer in the audit of the Icelandic maritime administration organised within the context of the IMO Member States Audit Scheme ([IMSAS](#)) on 20-27 May. The audit took place at the Icelandic Transport Agency (ICETRA) and was conducted by a team of IMO auditors from Cyprus, the Netherlands and from IMO itself. The team of auditors had the opportunity to meet all the Icelandic authorities involved in the implementation of the international maritime conventions covered by the implementation of the IMO Instruments (III) Code. The audit was conducted in a very open manner and the authorities involved took it as an opportunity to identify areas where the overall performance of the Icelandic maritime administration could be improved. The role of EMSA as an observer was intended to explore areas of technical support that could be provided to EU member states, Iceland and Norway to prepare, undergo and follow up the audit from IMO. This may result in the organisation of training sessions and, at the request of a member state, the provision of support to draft and follow up the Corrective Action Plan.

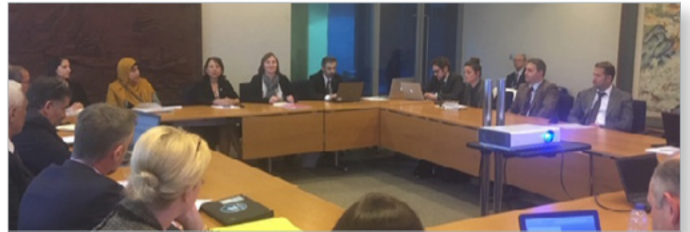
CROATIAN PRESIDENT PAYS VISIT TO EMSA

EMSA was honoured to welcome to its premises H.E. Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of Croatia, on 27 May. During the visit, Ms Grabar-Kitarović was given an overview of the Agency's extensive maritime surveillance capabilities in the Maritime Support Services operations centre. "I am very pleased to be here, not only as the President of a country with a long maritime tradition, but also because I am very proud of the new director of EMSA, the first Croatian to lead a European Agency" Ms Grabar-Kitarović said.



AWARENESS-RAISING FOR THE UPCOMING 0.50% CAP ON SULPHUR IN MARINE FUEL

As requested by the European Commission (DG ENV), EMSA organised a meeting in the margins of the IMO MEPC74 committee at the IMO premises in London on awareness-raising for the upcoming 0.50% [marine fuel sulphur limit](#) and its consistent implementation as from 1 January 2020 by Mediterranean countries. This was a follow-up meeting to a workshop under the same theme organised on 13-14 February at EMSA's premises in Lisbon. In addition to raising awareness for the upcoming 0.50% cap, the meeting discussed issues related to the ratification and effective implementation of [MARPOL Annex VI](#) as well as to the possibility of designating the Mediterranean Sea, or parts thereof, as a Sulphur Oxides Emission Control Area (SECA). Representatives from EU member states from the Med region, SAFEMED IV beneficiary countries and candidate countries sharing the Mediterranean basin were invited together with the IMO, REMPEC and the UNEP. During the meeting, discussions were held on the required preparatory actions and the process for submitting a proposal for the designation of the Mediterranean Sea as a SECA under MARPOL Annex VI.



EMSA ENHANCES POLLUTION RESPONSE CAPABILITY IN THE BLACK SEA

EMSA has concluded an improvement project on board the vessel [Galaxy Eco](#), based in Varna (Bulgaria), comprising the installation of a dispersant spraying system and the setting up of its associated dispersant stock. The increased 'weather window' for the use of dispersants makes this new response system a suitable complement to the existing mechanical recovery capabilities of the [Galaxy Eco](#). The dispersant stockpile consists of 200 tonnes of [Radiagreen OSD](#). To complement the new dispersant stock, EMSA also provides portable spraying systems for Vessels of Opportunity. Currently, EMSA maintains six operational dispersant stocks comprising a total of 1600 tonnes, five associated with the vessel network and one with the [Equipment Assistance Service \(EAS\)](#) arrangements.



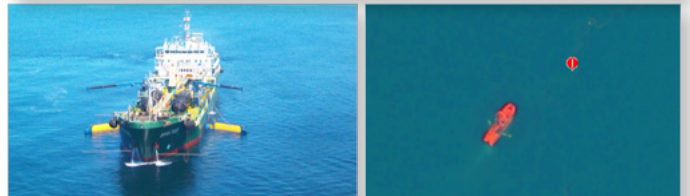
EMSA PARTICIPATES IN ADRIATIC SPILL CONFERENCE 2019

The 4th Adriatic Conference on spill prevention, preparedness and response took place in Opatija, Croatia, on 28-30 May. It was organised by ATRAC (Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response) under the auspices of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of Croatia and included presentations on the latest developments in the area of accidental marine pollution. The conference and exhibition brought together people from the Adriatic coast and beyond, including government representatives, regional and international institutions, the shipping and oil industry, academia, equipment manufacturers and other specialised companies. EMSA staff participated in the conference, giving a presentation on the EU cooperation framework surrounding [pollution response services](#), manning an exhibition stand and promoting an equipment demo of [EMSA's ro-trawl system](#) at the port of Opatija. The demo showed the kind of equipment available to member states when dealing with operations related to pollution response.



EU CIVIL PROTECTION EXERCISE 'CASCADE 19' HELD IN PORTUGAL

The '[Cascade 19](#)' exercise, held on 29-31 May in Portugal, was specifically geared towards promoting interdepartmental and interagency cooperation for response to oil spill incidents at sea. EMSA was involved in the pollution response offshore scenario in the vicinity of Setúbal. EMSA's response assets were deployed on site, under the coordination of the Portuguese National Maritime Authority. These assets included: one Indago [Remotely Piloted Aircraft System](#) quadcopter, operated from the Naval base in Troia on 29 May, and from the Portuguese Navy vessel Figueira da Foz on 30 May; and, the oil spill [response vessel Bahia Tres](#), deploying the rigid sweeping arms and simulating recovery of spilled oil on 30 May. [Satellite images](#) were also provided showing the four response vessels deployed together with three popcorn slicks used to simulate spilled oil.



Satellite image: WorldView-2 © 2019 European Space Imaging/DigitalGlobe, a Maxar Company

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VACANCIES: Traineeship notice (deadline: 12/6/2019); Configuration and Deployment Officer for CISE (7/6/2019); Personal Assistant to the Executive Director (3/7/2019)
PROCUREMENT: Supply of skimmers to recover oil in ice covered waters (deadline: 17/7/2019); Maintenance and supply of safety equipment (9/7/2019); HACCP audit services (14/6/2019). See website for more.