

### GREEN LIGHT FOR 2010 WORK PROGRAMME

The 25th meeting of the EMSA Administrative Board took place on 19-20 November in Lisbon. The Board approved the Work Programme and related budget and establishment plan for next year. In 2010 the Agency will focus on: the development of **THETIS**, the new Port State Control database; the awareness campaign to help prepare the Paris MoU region for this new inspection regime; and improving its current maritime information systems, such as SafeSeaNet and the **EU LRIT Data Centre**. The Board extensively debated the themes to be further developed in the Agency's 5 year strategy and followed with interest a report on the first months of operation of the EU LRIT Data Centre and on the pilot project on piracy in co-operation with **EUNAVFOR**. The Board will meet again in Lisbon on 9 March 2010.

### TWO MORE OIL RESPONSE VESSELS CONTRACTED

On 17 November, EMSA contracted two new oil recovery vessels. For the Northern Baltic Sea, an innovative arrangement based on ice-breaker Kontio was contracted with the Finnish shipowner **Finstaship**. She will service the Gulf of Bothnia during the ice breaking season and stay at Helsinki the rest of the year. For the Atlantic/Channel, Belgian shipowner **Aegean Bunkers at Sea** will provide a service based on a bunker tanker, Sara, operating from Portland (UK). Both vessels are expected to enter into operational service during the second half of 2010.



Representatives of EMSA and selected shipping companies



Bunker Sara will cover the Channel and Atlantic Approaches

### AIR EMISSIONS: LESS SULPHUR IN PORT

EMSA recently held a meeting with major industry stakeholders to identify the technical risks, safety concerns and mitigation measures required when switching fuels in ships' boilers. Under **Directive 2005/33/EC**, from 1/1/2010, ships at berth in EU ports for longer than 2 hours have to use fuels with a sulphur content not exceeding 0.1%. The meeting conclusions formed the basis of a report on the safety concerns and risks, which is now being used by the European Commission to assess the implications of this requirement coming into force.

### MARINE EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS' FORUM

EMSA hosted the 19th meeting of the MarED group on 4-5 November.



Marine equipment experts

This group is the co-ordination and co-operation forum for the Notified Bodies assigned by the Member States to carry out the conformity assessment procedures referred to in the **Marine Equipment Directive (96/98/EC)**. The group discussed technical issues and elaborated recommendations for Member States' consideration within COSS. They also took stock of the MarED database and website. As usual, Member States' and **EMEC** (manufacturers association) representatives attended the meeting as observers.

### EUROCEAN PREPARES ITS FUTURE AT EMSA

EMSA sometimes hosts high level meetings of organisations linked to maritime issues. On 10-11 November, the Agency received the 9th EurOcean Steering Committee meeting.



Second from the right, Maritime Advisor Emilio Martin Bauza welcomes EurOcean attendees

**EurOcean** is the Lisbon-based European Centre for Information on Marine Science and Technology. Supported by 9 countries, it gives priority to two main domains: marine research infrastructures and; European research, technology and development information. It also provides an electronic platform to facilitate communication and exchange for users with an interest in European marine science and technology.

### ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

**Recruitment:** Maritime Support Services operator (maritime background); Financial assistant; Maritime Support Services operator (IT background); Network engineer (temporary agent); Project officer for Equasis and statistics (SNE).

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