

BOARD ADOPTS: PRELIMINARY WORK PROGRAMME & BUDGET 2006

At its 10th meeting, the Administrative Board of EMSA adopted the Preliminary Work Programme and Preliminary Draft Budget 2006. The main elements are: the strengthening of the visits policy of EMSA to monitor compliance of Member States, candidate countries and classification societies with EU maritime legislation and; the second phase of the set up of EMSA's oil pollution response task. This will entail the positioning of additional stand-by oil recovery vessels in the areas of high priority and the setting up of a satellite imagery service centre for Member States and the Commission. Furthermore, the Administrative Board agreed to the rules for setting up a Staff Committee and EMSA elections will be organised after having received the green light from the Commission

OIL POLLUTION RECOVERY VESSELS: CALL LAUNCHED

The formal procurement process for the contracting of oil recovery vessels by the Agency began in March with the launch of a "Call for Expressions of Interest". This followed the publication in January of a "Prior Information Notice" (cf. January newsletter) which served as advanced publicity for the upcoming procurement. The "Call for Expressions of Interest" is the first step to which companies must respond (by 5th May 2005), if they wish to participate in the tendering process. The "Call" was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 5th March in 20 languages and is also available under "Procurement" on the EMSA website (www.emsa.eu.int) and on the O.J. website: <http://ted.publications.eu.int/official/>
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EMSA ATTENDS 1st EMAIIF MEETING

EMSA officials were attending the first meeting of the European Marine Accident Investigators' International Forum (EMAIIF) in Helsinki on 2/3 March, and gave a presentation on the role of EMSA and on current developments at European level. Discussions focussed on how to enhance future cooperation, while taking into account: the Commission's recent policy approach paper for casualty investigation in the European Union; EMSA's current and future tasks in the field of casualty investigation and; recent proposals for amending the IMO Code.

SIRENAC: A MEETING ON 1st MARCH

On the 1st/2nd of March, EMSA hosted a training session for representatives from the five EU Member States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus and Malta) which have a cooperative member status in the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (PMOU). The subject of the training was the use of Sirenac 2000, the central information system for port state inspection records established in accordance with the MOU. The training was delivered by an officer of the maritime administration of the Netherlands. This was the first action in 2005 in the field of technical assistance to those Member States that acceded to the EU on 1st of May 2004.

COURT OF AUDITORS: 2004 ACCOUNTS CERTIFICATION COMPLETED

In order to carry out the annual audit and certification of accounts, a team from the European Court of Auditors visited EMSA from 11-15th March. The findings of the Court will be communicated to the Agency in the coming months in order to improve internal control and overall organisation.

EXPERTS VISIT THE ORV "ARGONAUTE" IN BREST

Two EMSA agents were kindly invited to Brest on 17th/18th March to visit the oil recovery vessel (ORV) "Argonaute" chartered by the French administration. They were shown interesting aspects of its equipment such as this sweeping arm (picture)

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