

EMSA CONDUCTS FIRST INSPECTION ON TRAINING IN AFRICA

Two EMSA inspectors from the Training of Seafarers' section visited the Republic of Cape Verde between the 25th June and the 1st July 2006. The objective was to verify how the STCW Convention is implemented by this country as the Republic of Cape Verde does not have yet its maritime education, training and certification system recognised at EU level. The team visited the Directorate General of Merchant Marine and Ports and the educational institute ISECMAR. It was received by the Minister of Infrastructure, Transport and the Sea. This inspection follows previous missions to Croatia, Turkey, Romania, Bulgaria, and the Philippines.

ILE-DE-BRÉHAT COMES TO LISBON FOR EMSA INAUGURATION DAY

The EMSA chartered anti-pollution vessel *Ile-de-Bréhat* will be in Lisbon for the Agency's inauguration day on 14 September. It will take advantage of anti-pollution exercises in the Iberian peninsula area to pay a call to its European charterer. The vessel, which is owned by Alda Marine (Louis Dreyfus Armateurs and Alcatel), is a cable repair vessel currently based in Brest and it is the largest of the EMSA chartered anti-pollution fleet. Built in 2001, the vessel has an onboard recovered oil storage capacity of 4,000 m³ and a maximum speed of 15 knots. Visitors will be able to see the vessel on the inauguration day.

UPDATING OF OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE CAPACITY INVENTORY

The Inventory of EU Member States Oil Pollution Response Capacity, which was first published in October 2004, has been updated. The new inventory includes information on the 'at-sea' oil spill response equipment currently available in 22 Member States, together with information on plans for investment. The update contains extensive information on the availability, distribution, costs and model contracts relating to multi-purpose vessels, as well as inventory profiles for each of the EU Member States. This document is available on the EMSA website.

FIRST MEETING OF THE CONSULTATIVE NETWORK ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The first meeting of the Consultative Network on Technical Assistance took place at EMSA's Lisbon headquarters on 27th June 2006. This network comprises nominated focal points from all the 25 EU Member States, plus

Norway and Iceland. The aim of the meeting was: to present EMSA's technical assistance activities; to explain the role of the related focal points; to exchange information on training activities and; to identify potential requirements for specialised training for officers from EU Member States. Another key objective was to identify new initiatives to promote cooperation and dissemination of best practice between Member States in the fields of maritime safety, security and the prevention of pollution from ships. As a follow up, Member States will forward their inputs to EMSA in order to consolidate its 2007 Technical Assistance plan.

EMSA INVOLVED IN SHIP RECYCLING

The draft Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships is currently being developed by the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC). The future Convention (to be ready for adoption in 2008-2009) should provide globally enforceable standards: for the design, construction and operation of ships to facilitate environmentally sound recycling; as well as for the operation of ship recycling facilities in a safe and environmentally sound manner; and for the establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism for ship recycling. EMSA has been requested to provide assistance to the European Commission during the preparatory phase of this new legal instrument.

EMSA NOW COMPLETE IN LISBON



The Agency has now closed down at its birthplace in Brussels and the final group of staff members began work in Lisbon on 17 July. This will enable the Agency to work at maximum efficiency in the future.

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