

FUTURE OF SHIP RECYCLING DISCUSSED

EMSA organised an expert workshop on ship recycling on 21-22nd September, which was divided into two parts. The first session (21st September) focused on developments at global level and aimed at an exchange of views on ship recycling between representatives from the EU Member States, EEA States, acceding and candidate countries, the European Commission and stakeholder organisations. The second session (22nd September) was limited to experts and government/EC representatives and sought to improve the level of information on current practices and solutions for ship recycling in the European Union. The outcome of the workshop will contribute to the overall process of developing a legal regime for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships.

EC/RUSSIAN WORKING GROUP MEETS AT EMSA



The Russian delegation at EMSA

From 2-4th October, the joint European Commission/Russian Federation Working Group on Maritime, Sea, River and Inland Waterway Transport, which is chaired by the Commission, met at EMSA headquarters. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Finnish EU presidency. The Russian and EU delegations discussed a substantial range of issues of mutual interest (eg SafeSeaNet, the single hull tanker pilot project for the Baltic, port state control policy, mandatory pilotage, etc.) in an open and cooperative atmosphere.

OIL SPILL DISPERSANTS MANUAL COMING SOON

In 2005, EMSA developed the first draft of an "Operational Manual on the Applicability of Oil Spill Dispersants," which consisted of an overview report and a decision support software tool. The intention was to help EU Member States to determine the most appropriate response to an oil spill. The

manual was presented to the Member States at an EMSA workshop on "The use of oil spill dispersants in European waters" in December 2005 with the recommendation that the decision support software tool should be improved to cover some additional points. Using the input from the workshop, further work was undertaken to improve the software tool and, after completion, EMSA provided Member State experts with a training course on its use on 19th October. Following this, EMSA will soon distribute the final version of the manual to EU Maritime Administrations.

SAFETY ASSESSMENTS & INSPECTIONS ON THE WEBSITE

This month, special sections have been put on the website which list the completed inspections and assessments carried out by EMSA in 2006 and the dates on which the final reports were submitted to the European Commission. In the Classification Societies section, a list of inspections and visits to recognised organisations can be found, which shows the completed reporting cycles for visits to the offices of 5 different classification societies. In the Training section, there is an initial list of assessments relating to seafarer education and training in non-EU countries. Although several assessments are underway at present, the reporting cycles have only been completed for Bulgaria and Romania. The information will be updated monthly and it can be found at: www.emsa.europa.eu.

EDUCATION & TRAINING INSPECTIONS IN GEORGIA AND ALGERIA

Two teams of inspectors from the EMSA Training of Seafarers section visited Georgia and Algeria recently to inspect the maritime education, training and certification systems in the two countries. Algeria is not yet recognised at Community level for the purpose of supplying seafarers to EU registered ships, but an EU Member State has now requested recognition. Consequently, a team of two inspectors visited the country from 16-21st Sept for this purpose. Georgia is already recognised at Community level, so the visit was part of the normal 5 year re-assessment cycle. To this end, a team of three inspectors visited the central administration in Tbilisi before proceeding to the maritime administration offices, the state maritime academy and two training institutes in Batumi.

If you wish to subscribe to this electronic newsletter, please contact EMSA External Communications: Louis Baumard (louis.baumard@emsa.eu.int) or Andrew Stimpson (andrew.stimpson@emsa.eu.int).