EMSA ADOPTS NEW AGENCY STRUCTURE REFLECTING PRIORITIES OF LATEST 5-YEAR STRATEGY

EMSA kicks off the year with both a new five-year strategy and a new organisation chart, fully adapted to reflect the highlighted priorities of the new strategy (sustainability, safety, security, simplification and surveillance). From the beginning of January, the work of the Agency is being structured around four departments and eleven units. While the Executive Director continues to be supported by a dedicated bureau, the former departments have now been re-arranged to cover sustainability and technical assistance, safety, security & surveillance, digital services and simplification, and corporate services.

TRAFFIC DENSITY MAPS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MARITIME TRAFFIC

On 20 December EMSA announced the release by EMODnet of the Agency’s Traffic Density Maps (TDM) which offer a simple and effective way of displaying ship movement patterns. The maps are expected to contribute to a better understanding of maritime traffic, enabling authorities to make risk assessments, improve traffic planning and enhance overall ship safety. The TDM are generated using AIS data received by EMSA from the Agency’s data providers. This data is then processed to recreate the track of each individual ship from its recorded positions. The TDM are available to the public from EMODnet Human Activities, the European Commission’s entry point to geographic information on the use of the oceans.

EMSA HOLDS MARITIME SAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING SEMINAR FOR INDONESIAN ADMINISTRATION

On the 10-11 December 2019 EMSA held a Maritime Safety Capacity Building seminar for the Indonesian Administration in cooperation with the European Commission’s DG for Mobility and Transport. The two-day event took place at EMSA and involved 19 participants from the Indonesian maritime administration. The seminar’s agenda included a wide range of topics which covered the EU institutional framework in the main areas of activities and cooperation between the European Commission and EMSA, as well as the most recent trends and innovative technical solutions in shipping. The prepared programme offered a brief but complete overview of EMSA activities in the field of maritime safety while remaining interactive and engaging. In this context, there was also a practical demonstration of tools and maritime applications, as well as a visit to the Maritime Support Services centre located within EMSA premises.

EMSA APPEARS BEFORE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

EMSA’s Executive Director appeared before the European Parliament’s Transport and Tourism Committee to give an overview of the Agency’s 2020-2024 strategy and to exchange views on areas of interest to the MEPs were EMSA’s upcoming involvement in what is known as the Commission’s Green Deal and the Agency’s place in the roadmap towards decarbonisation, the Agency’s capabilities in the area of drone surveillance, crew safety and combating marine pollution.

INVESTIGATING SAFETY CULTURE & ASSESSING PROCEDURES ON BOARD SHIPS INVOLVED IN MARINE ACCIDENTS

On 14 December EMSA co-hosted a two-day workshop of the Permanent Cooperation Framework of Accident Investigation Bodies (PCF) in which representatives from 18 member states discussed aspects related to human and organisational factors in marine accident investigation. The event was focused on assessing the safety culture as well as on the impact of procedures on board ships and on shipping companies. Experts in safety and ergonomic factors (DMAIB, International Safe Marine Ltd) delivered well-received presentations and facilitated a fruitful debate between the participants. Representatives from the University of Strathclyde provided information concerning Safermde, an ongoing EU-funded project in the area of the human element. The PCF expressed interest in broadening the underpinning of this complex topic and underlined its central role in high quality accident investigation. Based on the discussions, the PCF (with EMSA as its secretariat) will work together to further develop a common understanding on the approach for investigating human and organisational factors following marine casualties and incidents.

ADVANCED LEVEL TRAINING FOR ACCIDENT INVESTIGATORS

The first session of the advanced level training for marine accident investigators was organised by EMSA on 25-29 November. Delegates from 15 member states attended the course focused on Human Factors where presentations and case studies were provided. The participants - all experienced investigators - actively engaged in exchanging their views based on experience in the field and gave positive feedback on the course. While the training structure was designed by EMSA in close cooperation with the Permanent Cooperation Framework of Accident Investigation Bodies (PCF) in order to capture user needs, the course content and case exercises were developed and delivered by an external contractor under the Agency’s supervision. This course integrates the current offer of training support to the Accident Investigation community.

COMMON INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT: SHARING BEST PRACTICES

The first best practice workshop under the Transitional Phase of CISE was held at EMSA on 11 December 2019. Participants with different backgrounds and profiles – both those interested in joining the CISE network and those who have already been involved for many years – actively engaged in sharing their experiences and provide input on the current challenges and future opportunities of the CISE network. The workshop was focused on assessing the safety culture as well as on the impact of procedures on board ships and on shipping companies. Experts in safety and ergonomic factors (DMAIB, Intergo BV, Safe Marine Ltd) delivered well-received presentations and facilitated a fruitful debate between the participants and delegates from the Permanent Cooperation Framework of Accident Investigation Bodies (PCF) in order to capture user needs, the course content and case exercises were developed and delivered by an external contractor under the Agency’s supervision. This event was focussed on assessing the safety culture as well as the Agency’s capabilities in the area of drone surveillance, crew safety and combating marine pollution.

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PROCUREMENT: T/1151 enhancement and maintenance (17/2/2020); Provision of interim support services (29/1/2020); Development and maintenance of Martian databases (27/2/2020).

See website for more information.