EMSA ADMIN BOARD LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

During its first meeting of 2013, on 19-20 March, EMSA’s Administrative Board discussed the preliminary 2014 Work Programme, taking account of the revised founding regulation. The Agency will continue with its programme of inspection visits and its vessel monitoring and pollution activities, which remain its core tasks. The multi-annual staff policy for 2014-2016 was also on the agenda, as well as the revision of the Agency’s five-year strategy. The Board members were given an overview of the proposed scope of the revision exercise by the Chairman of the steering group appointed for this exercise and will have a more detailed discussion at the June meeting. The finalisation of the revision is planned for November 2013. Lastly, the Board was introduced to SafeMed 3, an EU-funded project starting in mid-June which will see EMSA play a key role in maritime training and safety in the Southern Mediterranean region.

MONITORING FISHING IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC

From 1 March to 30 April, EMSA is offering assistance to the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) for the coordination of its fisheries control and surveillance activities in the regulatory area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation. For the first time, EMSA’s integrated maritime data environment is being used to monitor a large sea area with low ship density. New data streams such as satellite AIS positions and vessel targets detected by satellite radar images are being used to complete the maritime picture over this remote sea area. The pilot project aims to assess the added value of using correlated vessel activity information for targeting inspections. The classic behaviour monitoring using maritime position datasets has been enhanced by integrating fishery specific information such as fishing license and gear type details.

LNG BUNKERING STUDY NOW ON WEBSITE

EMSA’s commissioned study on the standards and rules for the bunkering of gas-fuelled ships has now been published on EMSA’s website. The study (carried out by Germanischer Lloyd) contains a comprehensive overview of the regulatory framework for the bunkering of gas-fuelled ships including identified gaps. All relevant existing international and European rules with a possible impact on LNG bunkering have been described in detail. The study describes the current status of on-going ‘rule making’ and ‘standard development’ initiatives and indicates when the results of these initiatives can be expected, as well as which elements of the LNG bunkering chain they cover. The study is part of EMSA’s contribution to the work of the European Commission on developing an EU standard for LNG bunkering as identified in the Commission’s ‘LNG for Shipping Action Plan’.

EMSA TO RAISE ITS OWN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Spanish National Renewable Energy Centre (CENER) started work in January on the best ways EMSA can save on electrical power. After completing a period of fact finding (on 10,600 m², five floors and 250 work stations), it is now creating a computer simulation of the EMSA’s energy situation to be ready in April. The simulation takes all energy related factors into account, including for example the heating effect of lights. On this basis, CENER will present its recommendations, among which the possible installation of a thermal solar system. Prior to this, EMSA had already achieved a reduction of close to 30% between 2010 and 2012 thanks to measures such as insulating film on windows and the installation of sliding doors.

Documents: Integrated Maritime Services brochure
Procurement: Provision of insurance broking services (deadline: 10/04/2013); Service Contracts for Stand-by Oil Spill recovery Vessels (Channel and Southern North Sea) (deadline: 11/04/2013); Supply of toners (deadline: 26/04/2013); Provision of interpretation services (deadline: 03/05/2013); Provision of Travel Agency Services for SafeMed 3 (15/05/2013); Maintenance and Enhancement Services for EMSA’s Identity Management and Single Sign-On systems (12/04/2013)
Careers: Project Officer for Pollution Preparedness and Response (deadline: 8/04/2013); Project Officer for CleanSeaNet Operations (deadline: 6/05/2013)