MAJOR INTERNATIONAL GATHERING SET ON BOLSTERING SeAFARERS’ RIGHTS TO DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS

EMSA has hosted an International Workshop on the Maritime Labour Convention to give governments, shipowners and seafarers the opportunity to look at how the MLC has been functioning in practice and to encourage further ratification and full implementation. The workshop held on 18-20 February was a joint initiative by EMSA, the International Maritime Organisation and the International Labour Organisation. The 79 participants included EU and IMO government representatives dealing with compliance and inspections, as well as NGOs, trade unions and seafarers. In the framework of the discussions, there was a series of presentations and panel discussions aimed at raising awareness of the importance of global coordination and consistent implementation by countries in their various capacities as flag, port and labour-supplying states. There was also an exchange of views on the role of social partners which highlighted just how essential cooperation is to the improvement of seafarer working conditions.

The workshop also underlined the challenges faced in the implementation of the MLC and gave visibility to good practices and cooperation initiatives, particularly in the field of capacity building.

AMBASSADORS OF EU COUNTRIES TO PORTUGAL INVITED TO VISIT EMSA

On 13 February, 18 ambassadors to Portugal visited EMSA’s premises to get an up-to-date report of the operations of the Executive Director. This was the opportunity for the ambassadors to have an overview of the work and the progress of the agency’s international partnerships, which have recently been adopted five-year strategy. EMSA has a number of ongoing initiatives which are underpinned by the promotion of better seafarers’ conditions, safety, security, sustainability and proximity with social partners, and the MLC 2006.

The session gathered stakeholders for EMSA and maintaining dialogue with them is very important on many levels.

EMSA PARTICIPATES IN DISCUSSION PANEL AT EUROPEAN SHIPWRECKING WEEK

EMSA’s Executive Director was invited by the European Community ‘Shipowners’ Associations (ECSAs) to participate on 20 February in a panel on the topic of Safe and Social Shipwrecks at the European Shipwrecking Week in Brussels. His high profile event was an opportunity for the Director to discuss the maritime industry’s ongoing cooperation with stakeholders, such as IMO, ILO and NGOs, and the role they play in the development of a safer, secure, green and competitive maritime sector. EU member state authorities are major stakeholders for EMSA and maintaining dialogue with them is important.

TRAINING ON THE NEW THETIS-MED INSPECTION SUPPORT TOOLS

EMSA has been active in providing training on the new THETIS-Med inspection support for all Mediterranean MLC member countries. The tool has been in use and running on 15 February during the deployment of a vessel with transition by giving Port State Control Officers an overview of the system and its key features and functionalities. The activities organised also serve to strengthen cooperation and partnerships between the maritime administrations of the beneficiary countries and EMSA. So far, training sessions have been held 5-6 February in Istanbul (Turkey) and 15-16 February in Lisbon and, 21-25 February in 2020 in Athens (Greece).

PROGRESS CONTINUES ON THE COMMON INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT

The third CISE Stakeholder Group meeting of the transitional phase of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) took place on 13 February, bringing together members of the maritime administrations of beneficiary countries and EMSA. So far, three training sessions have been held in 20 February in Lisbon (Portugal), 1-2 February in Istanbul (Turkey) and 15-16 February 2019 in Athens (Greece). It was the opportunity for the ambassadors to visit EMSA and provide feedback on the development of the system and its key features and functionalities. The objectives aim to develop a safe, secure, green and competitive maritime sector. EU member states are major stakeholders for EMSA and maintaining dialogue with them is important.

EMSA EXPANDS ITIL PROCESSES BY ADOPTING NEW ELECTRONIC SET-UP

EMSA’s Senior Communication Officer was invited to participate in the first of a fully integrated and consolidated solution involving the entire system and its key features and functionalities. The aim of CISE is to provide a platform for exchanging information that are currently available through different systems.

EMSA has been active in providing training on the new<br>EMSA NEWSLETTER No. 180 March 2020