

## POOLING EXPERTISE FOR MORE EFFECTIVE MARITIME BORDER CONTROLS

EMSA's integrated maritime services are soon to be used by Frontex to support the detection of illegal activities at sea. A three-year [service level agreement](#) was signed between the two agencies on 3 May. "We are delighted to be part of this new venture. It is gratifying to see our maritime service capabilities being used to support Frontex and the Member States," said Executive Director, Markku Mylly. Data from EMSA's [Integrated Maritime Data Environment \(IMDatE\)](#), including ship position reports and satellite images, will be provided to Frontex to enable them to construct a more comprehensive overview of activities at Schengen's external borders.

## FORGING CLOSER LINKS WITH CROATIA

Croatian journalists from 13 different media outlets visited EMSA on 8 May as part of a tour to get acquainted with the EU's regional activities. Croatia is to become the EU's 28<sup>th</sup> member on 1 July 2013. The twenty Croatian visitors were introduced to EMSA and in particular to its oil pollution response activities. A tender launched in 2013 will see the geographic coverage of EMSA's stand-by [oil spill pollution response](#) vessels extend to the Adriatic Sea.



EMSA also paid a visit to Opatija to attend the second Adriatic Spill Conference where presentations were given on EMSA's oil spill response and HNS marine pollution services. In a country where the coastline bears great economic and environmental importance, EU membership is an added safety net.

## EQUASIS GOES MOBILE

Comprehensive data on all sea-going merchant ships over 100 Gross Tonnage and the companies that operate and own them is now more accessible than ever. The [Equasis database](#) is available to the public from smartphones and tablets free of charge. As host of the Equasis Management Unit, EMSA has been closely involved in this development. Maritime authorities from eight countries across the world participate in the Equasis project. More than

45 different data providers, from the public sector and the maritime industry, feed into the Equasis database. Each week, some 70% of the entire data is refreshed, including class and statutory certificates, PSC inspections, P&I, associations and vetting programs, and ship's particulars.



## BETTER PLANNING AND COORDINATION WHEN CRISIS STRIKES

Efficient response to disasters inside and outside Europe is the aim of the [Emergency Response Centre](#). Launched by the European Commission on 15 May, the centre will operate 24 hours a day and be capable of dealing with several simultaneous emergencies in different time zones. The ERC will monitor the situation, analyse humanitarian and civil protection issues, and trigger immediate response if needed. "Making a coordinated and immediate response is an essential part of any life-saving action. We have established the ERC to enable the EU and its Member States to respond to overwhelming natural and man-made disasters in a more timely and efficient manner," explained European Crisis Response Commissioner, Kristalina Georgieva. The ERC replaces and upgrades the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), thereby becoming EMSA's new contact point in the event marine pollution response is needed.



EMSA participating in the inauguration via video link-up

## AGENCY STAFF COMMITTEES ASSEMBLE

The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Association of Agency Staff Committees (AASC) was held in Lisbon on the 27-28 May at the invitation of EMSA and the EMCDDA. AASC is a group formed by the Staff Committees of the EU Regulatory Agencies and was established in 2001 with the aim to provide the Agency Staff Committees with a forum for dialogue and consultation, as it was felt that there was a need to develop common action plans and solidarity, to set up a system of mutual aid and exchange



information and to have the agency staff represented at the highest level within the institutions. The assembly has reached a mature stage of development and has grown today to a total of thirty participating agencies. The assembly meets twice a year in spring and autumn, once in an agency location and once in Brussels. Hot on the agenda was the on-going revision of the Staff Regulations with the participation of the Deputy Director General of DG HR of the Commission, Mr Fernando Frutuoso de Melo.

## ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

**Publications:** [Vessel tracking globally-An insight into the value of LRIT](#)  
**Procurement:** [Provision of ship and company data for the Equasis database \(27/06/2013\)](#), [Provision of management training services \(17/06/2013\)](#)