

### IMSO MEETS EMSA



Director of the International Mobile Satellite Organisation, Esteban Pacha (left) and Willem de Ruiter, EMSA Executive Director.

On 3-4<sup>th</sup> May, representatives from the International Mobile Satellite Organisation (IMSO) participated at the EMSA workshop on the implementation of Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) systems throughout Europe. Also participating were representatives of the European Commission, the IMO and EU/EEA Member States. From the implementation date of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008, IMSO will become both the central coordinator and the "watchdog" for the international LRIT system. In the event that EMSA takes responsibility for the development of an EU LRIT data centre, there would be an even closer relationship between the two organisations.

### INSPECTIONS IN ISRAEL AND TUNISIA

In March and April, EMSA inspectors visited Israel and Tunisia to evaluate their systems for the education, training and certification of seafarers. Neither country has yet been recognised at Community level for the supply of seafarers to EU registered ships. The two reports are being prepared at the present time and will form the basis for a Community decision on EU level recognition. This means that EMSA inspectors have now inspected the implementation of the STCW Convention in 13 non-EU countries, including 40 maritime education and training establishments. In the next 2-3 months, the systems in Uruguay and Ecuador will be inspected and, after the summer, inspections of EU Member States are expected to begin.

### WORKSHOP ON SHIP RECYCLING

On 24 April, EMSA organised a workshop on the draft IMO Convention for the safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. The workshop was attended by government representatives from the EU Commission, EU Member States, EEA countries and EU

candidate countries, as well as by an observer from the IMO Secretariat. The primary objectives were to provide a platform for discussion prior to upcoming international meetings related to the draft Convention (in particular the IMO Inter-Sessional Working Group on Ship Recycling and IMO MEPC56), and to stimulate an exchange of views among Member State experts on current developments and practices. The main issues discussed included the survey and certification of ships; the authorisation and operation of ship recycling facilities and; the future system of reporting, control and enforcement as foreseen under the draft IMO Convention.

### ESTONIAN OFFICERS VISIT EMSA



On 16<sup>th</sup> May, officers from the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications visited EMSA to learn about its activities in different key operational areas. In particular, the presentations focused on traffic monitoring (including SafeSeaNet); CleanSeaNet; oil pollution response and casualty investigation.

### CLEANSEANET WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Click on <http://cleanseanet.emsa.europa.eu/> and you will be able to access the recently launched CleanSeaNet website. The site contains information on the CleanSeaNet system, which is a satellite based monitoring system for the detection and tracking of ship sourced pollution in European waters. The system provides information to EU/EEA Member States on possible illegal discharges and on accidental spills, as well as on the monitoring of 'hot spots.' The website provides extensive information to interested parties, as well as making available a database of satellite images and associated information to authorised users on a restricted basis.

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