

EMSA OPENING CEREMONY ON 14TH SEPTEMBER

In April 2006, EMSA began operating from its permanent home town of Lisbon and all staff will be re-located by July. The opening ceremony of the Agency will be held in Lisbon on 14th September in the presence of a number of high level political personalities from the Portuguese and European hierarchies. The event will provide an excellent opportunity to provide information on the activities of the Agency and to thank those involved in its development to date.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD APPROVED ANNUAL REPORT

The Administrative Board had its first meeting at the premises of EMSA in Lisbon on June 15th. The members approved the Annual Report 2005 and had a discussion on how EMSA should provide time critical services, so-called Maritime Support Services on a 24 hours basis, to Member States. The Board took note of a first presentation of the budget 2007 proposal highlighting costs per activity (Activity Based Budgeting).

PARIS MOU: COMMON TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR PSC OFFICERS

During the 39th session of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Port State Control Committee (PSCC), which was held in Nantes from 9-12th May, one of the main items on the agenda was the proposal of a common training programme for port state control officers (PSCO's). The general principles for setting common and consistent standards, providing training to PSCO's and the continued updating of technical knowledge were discussed. A number of initiatives will be financed and developed jointly by EMSA, the MoU Secretariat and Member States in this area in the future.

BELGIUM JOINS SAFESEANET

Membership of the SafeSeaNet ship monitoring system is continuing to grow and its 13th member, Belgium, has now successfully fulfilled all the necessary requirements. Thirteen other European states have yet to be commissioned and all, including Bulgaria and Romania, have now begun their work on the project. The take-up has been gradual and has to be adapted to the SafeSeaNet storage capacity. In May 2006, the number of messages exchanged exceeded one million.

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE AT EMSA



Representatives from the Lisbon based agencies, EMCDDA and EMSA, at the last session of the Steering Committee.

Although EMSA has moved to Lisbon, the job of the Steering Committee has not yet finished. This working group was constituted to monitor the construction of the permanent headquarters building in the city centre and to ensure the proper implementation of the protocol signed with the Portuguese government on 28th July 2004. On 6th June, it had its first meeting at the new Lisbon headquarters in the presence of Secretaries of State, the president of the Port of Lisbon Authority, representatives of the mayor and the Executive Director of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

NEW HEAD OF OPERATIONS SUPPORT

With an academic background in computer science and electrical engineering, Gabriele Pawlitzek first spent 9-10 years in the German Aerospace Centre as a software engineer and later as Head of the Computer Aided Software Engineering Service. Following an assignment as a team leader dealing with project and software engineering at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, EMSA's new head of operations support joined the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites in October 2000 as Head of the Technical Support Division. In this role, she was responsible for the procurement and development of ground segment facilities, and for the provision of information technology and other engineering and technical services, before joining EMSA this month.

If you wish to subscribe to this electronic newsletter, please contact EMSA External Communications: Louis Baumard (louis.baumard@emsa.eu.int) or Andrew Stimpson (andrew.stimpson@emsa.eu.int).