

*The EMSA staff wish you
a happy new year*

RESOURCE OUTLOOK FOR 2006

The Budgetary Authority (European Parliament and Council) has approved a budget of €44,670,000 for the Agency in 2006. Within this, €16.3 million has been allocated for staff and administrative expenditure, including payment for the move to Lisbon, and €4.5 million has been made available for operational activities. Further to this, an amount of €23.8 million has been allocated for activities in the field of pollution response, which mainly comprise a second call for tender for stand-by oil recovery vessels around the EU coastline and the provision of satellite imagery services to Member States. The Parliament has also approved the 2006 establishment plan, which allows for a maximum of 132 staff. The budget also includes €40,000 from the PHARE programme to support the participation of Bulgaria and Romania in the Agency's activities.

WEST FRANCE HAPPY WITH EXTRA PROTECTION

After the experience of the Erika disaster several years ago, interests in western France have been very supportive of EMSA's chartering of an oil pollution response vessel to be based in Brest, as part of its EU-wide support network. Jacques Mangold, Director of Vigipol, which represents 97 local and regional councils in Brittany, wants much improved prevention and response, as well as more severe sanctions against polluters. He says: "It is necessary to have anti-pollution tools pre-positioned close to potential disasters," and also commended the EMSA concept of chartering existing ships instead of building new ones "at exorbitant cost."

PORT STATE CONTROL PROJECT ENDS

A tutoring project on Port State Control (PSC) was carried out by EMSA between April and November 2005. The project involved sending teams of 3 people (2 experts plus an EMSA project officer) to each of the 5 recently acceded EU Member States which have a cooperative status within the Paris MoU (Malta, Cyprus, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania). The teams advised and tutored local inspectors in the application of Council Directive 95/21/EC, and carried out on-the-spot training in both EU and Paris MOU procedures. Each visit lasted a week and took place at Member States' PSC headquarters

and, where appropriate, at their local offices in order to best meet the needs of the Member State concerned. The total number of participants in the project included 8 experts from well established Paris MOU member organisations, an EMSA project officer and 61 inspectors from the participating Member States. In total, 34 ships were inspected during the five weeks and the average number of deficiencies found was 8.5 per vessel.

OIL SPILL DISPERSANTS WORKSHOP



On 14-15th December 2005, EMSA organised a workshop on the Use of Oil Spill Dispersants in Brussels. The event involved speakers from both the scientific and operational fields and participants from 15 EU Member States, 2 candidate countries and 2 EFTA countries. Each had the opportunity to share information and ideas on the usage of oil spill dispersants, and to discuss their points of view on the subject. The aim of the workshop was to provide Member States with useful information on the use of dispersants, on the implications of their use and ; on the relevant testing and approval procedures. The knowledge gained should facilitate decision-making on : if and when to use dispersants ; which ones to use and ; the identification of the existing gaps and appropriate future actions in this field. The programme and presentations are available on the EMSA website, on: <http://www.emsa.eu.int/end904d003d008d006.html>

STILL A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT EUROPE...

Found in the press on the EMSA move to Lisbon : "There is no good reason to move. Indeed, it would be much more convenient for the [EMSA] 100-plus employees to stay close to the Commission and other assorted agencies. But despite the upheaval several are no doubt happy to exchange dark, cold Brussels for a little Mediterranean sea and surf." Mediterranean sea? There is still a lot to learn about Europe.

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