AGENCY SETS OUT PRIORITIES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD IN RECENTLY PUBLISHED ‘EMSA OUTLOOK 2021’

EMSA’s recently published Outlook 2021 publication contains the concrete measures the Agency plans to take in 2021 to deliver on its multi-annual strategic objectives, building on the new and adapted working methods adopted in 2020. This annual publication represents a condensed version of the Single Programming Document and is organised by activity theme. The outcomes are typically reported in the corresponding Consolidated Annual Activity Report which details the results achieved against the objectives set.

EMSA RESPONDS TO BELGIAN AUTHORITIES’ REQUEST FOR INSTITUTIONAL TRAINING

EMSA delivered an institutional training course virtually to several Belgian authorities on 20–21 January. Thirty officials attended from a variety of departments, including the Maritime Transport Directorate General, the Belgian Institute for Postal Services and Telecommunications, and the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences. The course covered: an introduction to the structure of the EU and its legislative process; the mandate of the European Commission and EMSA in this international forum. How the IMO functions in particular in respect to the International Member State Audit structure of the EU and its legislative process; the mandate of the European Commission and EMSA in this international forum. How the IMO functions in particular in respect to the International Member State Audit.

EMSA’s Executive Director has voiced her full support for a more balanced representation of women in the maritime community. In a video clip released online, she said: “It has been proved time and time again that sectors which are inclusive and gender balanced are more efficient and successful.” Ms Markovčić Kostelac also welcomed the actions of the IMO’s Women in Maritime initiative as well as the European Commission’s EU Women in Transport platform in which EMSA participates. These collective efforts will help the maritime industry move forward to fully acknowledge women as key maritime stakeholders.

POLLUTION PREVENTION ISSUES ADDED TO AGENDA AT VIRTUALLY HELD INTER-SECRETARIAT MEETING

On 24 and 25 February, the Agency held the 17th Inter-Secretariat meeting, with approximately 30 participants from the Secretariats of the various Regional Sea Conventions and Regional Agreements in Europe, relevant European Commission services and EMSA. These annually held meetings provide a unique forum for exchanging information, sharing good practice and providing interim updates on ongoing work and on topics of common interest in the field of oil and HNS marine pollution preparedness and response. This year, the meeting was held online and with an extended scope and agenda also addressing relevant pollution prevention issues, such as regional work on marine litter and MARECC, Annex VI emissions monitoring as well as the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

EMSA’s Earth Observation Services: Deployment of a New SAR Satellite

EMSA’s Earth Observation Services has started to use images from the Spanish PAZ satellite. The PAZ Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite is able to collect very high-resolution images up to 25 cm. It orbits the Earth 15 times per day, covering an area of 300,000 km². PAZ acquisitions complement SAR data already acquired through Sentinel-1A, Sentinel-1B, RADARSAT-2, TerraSAR-X and Tandem-L by strengthening the agency’s capacity to provide near real-time services to multiple user communities interested in monitoring activities at sea. The PAZ satellite is a part of the TerraSAR-K constellation and can acquire multiple imaging modes. PAZ satellite images can be acquired regardless of cloud cover conditions, at any time of day and night in addition to being used for pollution monitoring and maritime surveillance purposes.

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