FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION FOR THE YEAR 2021

The first meeting of the EMSA Board of Administration for the year 2021 was held on 17 March, as part of the Agency's 60th anniversary celebrations.

At the event, Mr. Michael Vassiliou, Minister of Maritime Affairs and Safety at the Greek Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Safety, was elected as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Vassiliou succeeds Mr. Andreas Georgiou, Commissioner of the Greek National Organisation for the Certification of Ships and Seafarers.

The Board of Administration is the top decision-making body of the Agency. It has a technical and strategic function, and is responsible for the definition and implementation of the Agency's strategy and development of its Activities Programmes.

The Agency was established on 28 March 2002 with responsibility for the implementation of the EU's maritime safety and security policies.

Mr. Vassiliou highlighted the Agency's achievements, its role in providing operational support to EU member states and the European Commission, and the importance of cooperation with third countries and/or international organisations. He also commented on how the Agency was responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing number of refugees.

Chairman Vassiliou also underlined the importance of continued high-quality work by the entire EMSA staff for their commitment to EMSA business.

On behalf of the whole Administrative Board, the Chairman expressed his profound appreciation to all the EMSA staff for their commitment to EMSA business, and for ensuring continuity and quality throughout a very challenging 2020.

As usual, the members received an update on selected procurements in the pipeline, including the Technology Support Package and the support for the Action Plan for a Europe fit for the Digital Age. The Technology Support Package includes projects concerned with emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data. A project on EUMM Ocean, a follow-up of the EUMM project, will also be presented at the next Board meeting.

Throughout the year, a number of operational and notification exercises arranged by the Agency, including a series of EUMM deployments in 2020, have allowed for the testing of operational equipment and relevant systems. This testing is crucial to ensure seamless functioning of the equipment and systems when they are used in real situations. It is also important to ensure the correct functioning of these systems for the efficient and successful operation of the Agency.

Landing drone for emissions monitoring using small sniffer

An update on EMSA’s RPAS services for the first quarter of 2021 is presented. The Agency received for the first time in March a new RPAS service for emissions monitoring in Lithuania. This new service is based on a Vertical Take-Off and Landing drone equipped with high-tech sensors. The drone, operated by the Lithuanian Border Guard Service, is capable of monitoring emissions from shipping and other sources. The drone can be used to conduct surveillance over large areas, providing valuable data for the Agency and its partners.

The fixed-wing drone is another RPAS service that has been added to EMSA's portfolio. This service is based in France and is capable of conducting surveys over large areas, providing valuable data for the Agency and its partners.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for marine security purposes, such as search and rescue operations. The use of RPAS can provide real-time situational awareness and improve operational effectiveness. The use of RPAS can also improve the efficiency of certain tasks, such as search and rescue operations, by providing real-time data and increasing situational awareness.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for environmental monitoring purposes, such as oceanography and marine biology research. The use of RPAS can provide valuable data for these purposes, such as ocean temperature and salinity, and can help to improve our understanding of marine ecosystems.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for security purposes, such as border control and counter-terrorism. The use of RPAS can provide real-time situational awareness and improve operational effectiveness. The use of RPAS can also improve the efficiency of certain tasks, such as border control and counter-terrorism, by providing real-time data and increasing situational awareness.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for environmental monitoring purposes, such as oceanography and marine biology research. The use of RPAS can provide valuable data for these purposes, such as ocean temperature and salinity, and can help to improve our understanding of marine ecosystems.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for security purposes, such as border control and counter-terrorism. The use of RPAS can provide real-time situational awareness and improve operational effectiveness. The use of RPAS can also improve the efficiency of certain tasks, such as border control and counter-terrorism, by providing real-time data and increasing situational awareness.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for environmental monitoring purposes, such as oceanography and marine biology research. The use of RPAS can provide valuable data for these purposes, such as ocean temperature and salinity, and can help to improve our understanding of marine ecosystems.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for security purposes, such as border control and counter-terrorism. The use of RPAS can provide real-time situational awareness and improve operational effectiveness. The use of RPAS can also improve the efficiency of certain tasks, such as border control and counter-terrorism, by providing real-time data and increasing situational awareness.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for environmental monitoring purposes, such as oceanography and marine biology research. The use of RPAS can provide valuable data for these purposes, such as ocean temperature and salinity, and can help to improve our understanding of marine ecosystems.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for security purposes, such as border control and counter-terrorism. The use of RPAS can provide real-time situational awareness and improve operational effectiveness. The use of RPAS can also improve the efficiency of certain tasks, such as border control and counter-terrorism, by providing real-time data and increasing situational awareness.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for environmental monitoring purposes, such as oceanography and marine biology research. The use of RPAS can provide valuable data for these purposes, such as ocean temperature and salinity, and can help to improve our understanding of marine ecosystems.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for security purposes, such as border control and counter-terrorism. The use of RPAS can provide real-time situational awareness and improve operational effectiveness. The use of RPAS can also improve the efficiency of certain tasks, such as border control and counter-terrorism, by providing real-time data and increasing situational awareness.

The Agency is also considering the use of RPAS for environmental monitoring purposes, such as oceanography and marine biology research. The use of RPAS can provide valuable data for these purposes, such as ocean temperature and salinity, and can help to improve our understanding of marine ecosystems.