AUSTRIAN MONSTER FOR THE EU PAYS VISIT TO EMSA
On 28 April, Ms Markovčić Kostelac, Federal Secretary for Transport and Digitisation of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Digital and Economic Affairs, visited the Agency in the context of a discussion on digitalisation of maritime regulatory processes and the role of national bodies in this area. EMSA introduced the current intergovernmental collaboration on a European Maritime Information System (EMI) that is being developed in the framework of the EMI Joint Undertaking (JU). The aim of the EMI JU is to develop a coherent system of interoperators and information resources which will be a central element of the digital transformation of the maritime sector.

BALTIC COUNTRIES BENEFIT FROM EMSA’S REGIONAL BRIEF SERVICES FOR ENHANCED MARITIME SURVEILLANCE
EMSA’s regional services enhanced maritime surveillance in the Baltic Sea by improving the coordination of the Baltic States’ national surveillance services, as well as providing valuable feedback to the Baltic States on the performance of their national surveillance services. The regional services provided a thorough analysis of the data provided by the EMSA maritime surveillance system SafeSeaNet, which is currently available to all the Baltic States. The analysis included an assessment of the data quality, as well as an evaluation of the effectiveness of the data sharing mechanism. EMSA also provided recommendations for improving the data quality and the data sharing mechanism, which were incorporated into the national surveillance services’ operational plans.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND EMSA DISCUSS THE PREMIUM PORT FACTORY DIRECTIVE
On 7-8 April, a virtual workshop took place on the Premium Port Factory Directive (PRF) in Brussels. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the implementation of the Directive in the five Baltic States, including Iceland and Norway, and to present the preliminary draft of the Directive. The workshop was attended by representatives from the European Commission, EMSA, and the five Baltic States. The discussion focused on the implementation of the Directive in the five countries, with a particular emphasis on the role of EMSA and the European Commission in facilitating the implementation of the Directive.

LAUNCH OF ONLINE COURSE ON EU SEAFARERS’ CERTIFICATION PLATFORM
On 28 April, an online workshop was held to present and discuss the online course on the EU Seafarers’ Certification Platform (EU-SCP) Directive and the recently updated guidance document prepared by EMSA. The workshop was attended by representatives from the European Commission, Member States, and stakeholders. The aim of the workshop was to provide an overview of the online course and the guidance document, and to discuss their potential uses.

MARITIME SECURITY HOSTED BY EMSA
On 23 April, Ms Markovčić Kostelac welcomed Austria’s Federal Minister for Transport and Digitalisation, Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Grasser, to the Agency’s premises for discussions on the future of maritime security. The visit was an opportunity to discuss the concept, share their experience and expectations, and exchange views on how best to prepare for the next steps of the Agenda.

VISIT TO EMSA
On 20 April 2021, a new release of the SafeSeaNet Graphical User Interface (GUI) was launched. This new release brings significant improvements to the existing GUI, including an enhanced user experience and new functionality. This release is the result of a comprehensive review and development process, and it is designed to meet the needs of the maritime community.

VEHICLE TRAFFIC MONITORING SYSTEM GETS AN UPGRADE – 5GHZ VS 4.9GHz LIVE
On 15 April, EMSA successfully launched a new release of the Vehicle Traffic Monitoring System (VTMS) to provide an improved service to users. The new release is based on the 5GHz frequency, which is designed to improve the service quality and reduce the risk of interference.

SAFESEAPORTS ECOGRAPHY USUAL GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE UPDATES – GETS AN UPGRADE - SSN V4.5 GO LIVE
On 20 April 2021, a new release of the SafeSeaNet Graphical User Interface (GUI) was launched. This new release brings significant improvements to the existing GUI, including an enhanced user experience and new functionality. This release is the result of a comprehensive review and development process, and it is designed to meet the needs of the maritime community.

EMSA CONDUCTS MOCK AUDIT FOR BMW IHSU IN PREPARATION FOR IMSAS AUDIT
On 6 May 2021, the Ministry of Maritime and Transport of Bulgaria conducted a mock IMSAS audit for the BMW IHSU, a Bulgarian maritime administration. The mock audit aimed to familiarise staff of the Bulgarian maritime administration with IMSAS procedures and to ensure that they are prepared for the actual IMSAS audit. The mock audit was conducted in a representative manner, with the participation of the Bulgarian Maritime Administration, and was followed by a feedback session to discuss the results and identify areas for improvement.