# NEWSLETTER No. 240



QUALITY SHIPPING, SAFER SEAS, CLEANER OCEANS

JUNE 2025

## COASTGUARD COOPERATION: EMSA TAKES OVER CHAIRMANSHIP OF TRIPARTITE WORKING ARRANGEMENT

On 26 June, our Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, closed the 2025 edition of the Annual European Coast Guard event by accepting the traditional bell that marks the handover of the Chairmanship of the Tripartite Working Arrangement on European Coast Guard Cooperation from Frontex Executive Director, Hans Leitjens. The Tripartite Working Arrangement is the framework for the cooperation of EMSA, the European Fisheries Control Agency, and Frontex on coast guard issues. During her address at the historic Ziółkowski pier in Gdansk, Ms. Markovčić Kostelac thanked Mr. Leijtens and Frontex for their work during their term at the helm of the chairmanship and underlined the strength of coastguard cooperation at EU level. During the Annual European Coast Guard event, EMSA also supported the Baltic Readiness and Coast Guard Exercise (BRACE), coordinated by Frontex and the Kashubian Border Guard Squadron of the Polish Maritime Border Guard, in the Bay of Gdańsk. MME BRACE brought together Poland's Border Guard, search and rescue, fisheries, and maritime security communities, along with operational experts from the EU agencies. The drill tested real-time coordination in complex scenarios involving several coast guard functions.



At the handover ceremony of the Chairmanship of the Tripartite Working Arrangement in Gdansk where our Executive Director received the symbolic chairmanship bell,

## EQUASIS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF ADVANCING MARITIME SAFETY AND TRANSPARENCY

The Equasis Project, a leading initiative in maritime safety and transparency, marked its 25th anniversary on June 6, 2025, with a high-level event in Paris co-hosted by the French General Directorate of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DG AMPA) and EMSA.Since its establishment in 2000, Equasis has grown into one of the most respected maritime information platforms, promoting the exchange of guality-related information on ships and maritime operators worldwide. Over the past decade, the number of unique monthly users has steadily increased, with the result that last year, the platform averaged more than 40,000 users per month. To date, nearly 600,000 users have registered with Equasis, and the system sees over 25 million page views annually. Today, it serves as a vital tool for decision-makers, regulators, and industry professionals working to enhance maritime safety and reduce substandard shipping. The event included panel discussions and keynote addresses from major stakeholders in maritime safety, including representatives from the French General Directorate of Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DG AMPA), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), as well as representatives from flag states, port authorities, classification societies, industry associations, and international organisations. Equasis can be accessed through the EMSA website and through www.equasis.org



Celebrating 25 years of Equasis at a special ceremony in Paris, co-organised by the French national administration and EMSA.

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**EMSA** European Maritime Safety Agency

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### STAKEHOLDERS GATHER FOR THE 17TH CISE STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING

On 18–19 June, EMSA hosted the 17th CISE Stakeholder Group meeting at its premises in Lisbon and online, bringing together a broad range of maritime authorities to continue the dialogue and cooperation essential to the success of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE). Now in its operational phase since July 2024, CISE is a voluntary, decentralised network that supports the secure exchange of maritime surveillance data across sectors and borders. The meeting opened with messages of support from the European Commission highlighting the strategic importance of information exchange across Europe's maritime domain. Interoperability and complementarity with existing systems were central themes, in line with the objectives of the recently published European Ocean Pact and the Joint Communication on submarine cable security. Over two half days of constructive discussion, participants welcomed Ireland and Sweden to the growing network and reflected on interoperability with existing systems such as MARSUR, EUROSUR, as well as with EFCA and EMSA platforms. Delegates shared initial experiences and lessons learned from the CISE-ALERT trials including plans for post-project use and ongoing developments in the exchange of both classified and unclassified information. They also reviewed national coordination approaches identifying both best practices and common challenges, discussed the technical building blocks underpinning the CISE network, and reaffirmed the importance of broadening participation to maximise value and avoid duplication.



The 17th CISE stakeholder group took place at EMSA on 17 and 18 June, bringing together stakeholders from all over the EU.

## **15TH PCF MEETING TAKES PLACE AT EMSA**

From 3rd to 5th June 2025 EMSA hosted the 15th meeting of the Permanent Cooperation Framework, PCF, for the Investigation of Accidents in the Maritime Transport Sector. The objective of the PCF is to provide an operational forum enabling the Member States' investigative bodies to cooperate, in line with Article 10 of Directive 2009/18/EC. 35 participants, from 22 Member States, European Commission and EMSA, discussed a range of issues including cooperation with other investigative bodies and future developments. PCF working groups presented their work and conclusions.



Attendees at the 15th PCF meeting, held in EMSA's Lisbon headquarters.

# COMMISSIONER MAGNUS BRUNNER VISITS EMSA

On 5 June, our Executive Director Maja Markovčić Kostelac today welcomed the European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, to our Lisbon headquarters. Ms. Markovčić Kostelac briefed Commissioner Brunner on EMSA's work and activities, in particular on the role of EMSA in maritime security and surveillance, including in European coastguard cooperation, and the added value that EMSA's services bring. The Commissioner then visited our Maritime Support Services centre to see our operational work in action.



Our Executive Director and Commissioner Brunner at EMSA's headquarters during his visit on 5 June.

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#### A SEA OF IDEAS - EMSA ART COMPETITION REACHES OUT TO THE YOUNGER GENERATION

On 3 June, EMSA hosted the second edition of "Um Mar de Ideias" (A Sea Of Ideas), its children's art competition which aims to engage the younger generation in thinking about the importance of the ocean in their lives, and how to protect it. This year's competition was aimed at primary school children all over continental Portugal and the islands. The theme of the competition - "if the ocean could speak, what stories would it tell?" - aimed at triggering creative reflection and thought among young people to develop pieces of art of underlining the importance of the marine environment and the importance of sustainable ocean management. The artworks could be anything from a painting to a video - children were encouraged to be as creative as possible and let their imaginations fly. The young artists worked in groups so they could debate and discuss the issues behind the competition during the creative process. The ceremony was broadcast live from EMSA's headquarters to all participating schools, and the winners were presented with trophies and special certificates.



Scenes from the second edition of EMSA's children's art competition award ceremony

### **RPAS: PRELIMINARY MARKET** CONSULTATION PUBLISHED

EMSA has published a preliminary market consultation focused on gathering information on the market structure, proven technical solutions and players related to the provision of emissions monitoring services based on sensors on board lightweight RPAS (LRPAS). Responses to the Preliminary Market Consultation need to be submitted to EMSA before 16:00 (UTC+1) on 22 August 2025. The questionnaire can be accessed through this link: <u>https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/</u> runner/emissions-rpas



# emsa.europa.eu

VACANCIES: Senior Specialist - Horizontal Digital Services (17/07/2025); National Experts in Professional Training (NEPT) Notice (ongoing); See website for more.

**PROCUREMENT:** STCW-IS Related Services (18/07/2025), MSS H24 Event and Incident Management Support and Monitoring Platform Services (21/07/2025). See website for more.