

## PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT MARCELO REBELO DE SOUSA VISITS EMSA

On 10 July, EMSA Executive Director Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac welcomed to the agency His Excellency President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. The visit followed an invitation made in May and offered the opportunity for an in-depth look at EMSA and its role in the European maritime sector. It also gave the Portuguese President the chance to exchange views with Ms Markovčić Kostelac. "I promised to come back soon and here I am. Politicians must fulfil what they promise and that is what I did!" explained the President. "We work closely with the Portuguese maritime authorities," said Ms Markovčić Kostelac, "and I am keen to strengthen our local connections even further." Each year, oil pollution response exercises are held in Portugal. In addition, in May, the EU civil protection exercise 'Cascade 19' saw EMSA's response assets deployed under the lead of the Portuguese national maritime authority. This included a fully equipped oil pollution response vessel, together with an RPAS quadcopter and satellite images to detect a simulated oil spill. The presidential visit ended with an opportunity for all staff to meet their host country's head of state. [Video of the visit.](#)



Credits: Miguel Figueiredo Lopes / Presidencia da Republica

## EMSA MEETS WITH PARTNER AGENCY IN VIGO TO DISCUSS AREAS OF COOPERATION

On 9 July, Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac met with EFCA's own head of agency, Pascal Savouret, for an exchange on their cooperation through bilateral agreements and particularly in the context of European coast guard-related activities. Pollution response is one area in which cooperation has recently been extended to allow for the possibility of EFCA chartered vessels to be equipped with pollution response equipment from EMSA. As part of this arrangement, equipment was delivered in May and training given on its effective use. Coast guard cooperation is also advancing in areas such as information sharing, maritime surveillance, and capacity building.



## FRANCE'S SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS VISITS EMSA

On 11 July, EMSA had the pleasure of welcoming to the agency Ms Amélie de Montchalin, France's Secretary of State for European Affairs who was appointed in March of this year. The visit was an opportunity to introduce Ms Montchalin to EMSA's main activities in the key areas of safety, security and prevention and response to pollution. Of the visit, Ms Montchalin said: "I end my day in Lisbon with a concrete success story for Europe. EMSA is working daily to protect our seas and oceans from pollution and to ensure the security of our ships across the world."



## RPAS FLIGHTS IN CROATIA ENHANCING MARITIME SURVEILLANCE IN REAL TIME

EMSA's service of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) is now being used by the Croatian authorities to assist them in a range of coast guard related functions including vessel traffic monitoring, search and rescue, and detection and monitoring of marine pollution. The request made in February 2019 by Croatia's Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure sees a **vertical take-off and landing RPAS** added to their existing surveillance mechanisms for an initial period of three months. The RPAS will be based on the island of Brač and will be expected to carry out regular patrol flights, on-demand incident monitoring missions and specific inspection operations. The RPAS is a Camcopter S-100 model under contract to EMSA from Schiebel Aircraft GmbH and has several specialised features which make it particularly useful to the Croatian authorities.



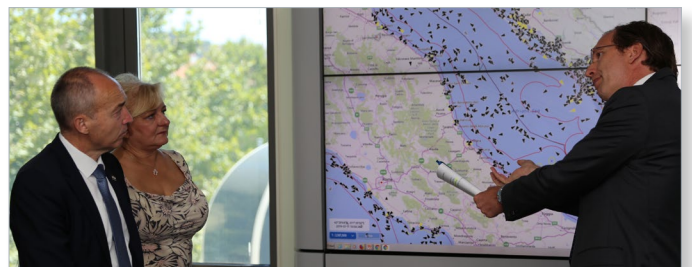
Credits: Schiebel

## CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS DATA PUBLISHED FOR FIRST REPORTING PERIOD

EMSA's **THETIS-MRV system** has released information on one year of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from some 11 400 ships over 5 000 GT operating in the European Economic Area. THETIS-MRV facilitates the structured workflow process involved in the reporting of the emissions, from the drafting of the monitoring plan to the final issuing of the document of compliance, thereby simplifying the administrative burden for all concerned. The system is designed to help shipowners and operators fulfil their legal obligations, and the data they submit must be approved by accredited verifiers that have been recognised by EU National Accreditation Bodies. While the accuracy of the data is paramount, it must be noted that EMSA may not make any modification of the data submitted by the companies and approved by their respective accredited verifiers. The emissions data are now to be carefully analysed by the European Commission and a report made public at the end of the year, allowing for an assessment of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the energy efficiency of maritime transport.

## DEFENCE MATTERS IN THE FORE AS EMSA RECEIVES CROATIA'S DEFENCE MINISTER AND HEAD OF THE EDA

On two separate visits in July, EMSA received Croatia's minister of Defence, Damir Krstičević, and Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, Jorge Domecq. During the visits, EMSA presented its enhanced maritime surveillance services including Earth Observation, Automated Behaviour Monitoring and the RPAS portfolio. Areas of existing and future cooperation were discussed, particularly in light of EMSA's role in implementing CISE, the Common Information Sharing Environment.



## RAISING MARITIME SECURITY LEVELS IN THE BLACK AND CASPIAN SEA REGION

The first training course under the maritime security component of the EU-funded Black and Caspian Sea region project took place on 16–17 July at EMSA. Sixteen participants from BCSEA project beneficiary countries (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Ukraine) completed the 16-hour course covering SOLAS Chapter XI-2 and the ISPS Code. These instruments form the basis of the role of the Flag State and its responsibilities as regards the implementation of the international maritime security framework. The course also covered the relevant EU legislation and highlighted areas which may be prioritised, such as the application of the non-mandatory part of the ISPS Code. The participants took part in discussions on practical cases presenting different scenarios to show the problems which may be encountered by national authorities when implementing maritime security measures.



[emsa.europa.eu](http://emsa.europa.eu)

**PUBLICATIONS:** EMSA Facts & Figures 2018; SAFEMED Newsletter; BCSEA Newsletter

**PROCUREMENT:** Service contract for the provision of steering and manoeuvrability update study (deadline: 16/9/2019); Supply of electricity for EMSA facilities in Lisbon (12/9/2019); Marine Equipment Directive Scientific and Technical Support (29/8/2019); Provision and Access to Maritime Data and Information for non-commercial use (21/8/2019)  
See website for more