

BLUE BELT PILOT ENTERS OPERATIONAL PHASE



A promising pilot: the Blue Belt received early praise in Member State feedback to the Commission's white paper 'Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area': 'can be very helpful' (Lithuania); 'a positive step' (Denmark), one of the 'top ten' initiatives (Sweden).

The **Blue Belt Pilot Project**, involving 250 voluntarily participating vessels, known as 'Blue Ships', entered its operational phase on 5 May. The movements of the 'Blue Ships' are monitored via the EMSA-operated SafeSeaNet System, resulting in pre-arrival reports for port customs authorities. The final aim of the project is to support the European Commission's (DG TAXUD and DG MOVE) policies to streamline administrative procedures related to intra-EU shipping. An assessment of the pilot project will start at the end of 2011 and if successful, the findings may be used to review existing procedures and legislation.

MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATION: DEADLINE KICKS IN ON 17 JUNE



Learning lessons from accidents: EMCIP enables marine accidents to be categorised according to an agreed taxonomy, enabling sharing of intelligence about the various factors involved in marine accidents (photo: Lisco Gloria fire, 2010; source: Havariecommando).

The countdown has begun to a day that safety-conscious European seafarers have been waiting for: 17 June 2011. This is the date of the Europe-wide transposition of **Directive 2009/18/EC** on marine accident investigation, when Member States are obliged to have in place independent safety investigative bodies, to investigate very serious marine casualties, to publish investigation reports within 12 months, and to notify marine casualties and incidents via the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (**EMCIP**). EMCIP is a database that is used to store and analyse accident related data about marine casualties and incidents. So far, EMCIP has been running on a voluntary basis for a couple of years, with mandatory population starting on 17 June. Ahead of this important deadline, on 4-6 and 25-27 May, EMSA played host in Lisbon to 23 delegates from Member States. At these meetings the new database functions were presented to EMCIP users, enabling them to compare the new and old versions, and test-run new features.

MARSURV TO TRACK MERCHANT VESSELS OFF SOMALIA



Few days go by when there is no news of a piracy incident in the Indian Ocean. One of a number of initiatives which seek to counter the activities of pirates, MARSURV enables the tracking of ships entering dangerous waters. This contributes to better communication between ships and the naval forces protecting merchant shipping.

The EU Naval Force (**EUNAVFOR**) in conjunction with EMSA have collaborated to develop an integrated maritime monitoring service (**MARSURV**) to allow EUNAVFOR to track merchant vessels in the High Risk Area off the coast of Somalia. This monitoring service has been designed to fuse multiple sources of ship specific information (MSCHOA registration and UKMTO reporting information) and positional data (Long Range Information Tracking – LRIT and SATELLITE AIS) in a real time environment. MARSURV will enhance the ability of counter-piracy forces to make a risk assessment of the thousands of merchant vessels transiting across this huge area, and to optimise the deployment of their forces.

YOUNG EU-BLOGGERS GRILL EMSA!



'When did you...?', 'How is it possible that...?', 'Why does the EU do this and not that?' On 18 April, EMSA just about coped with the rapid-fire bursts of questions from a group of 34 young professional and aspiring journalists and online reporters, during a visit to EMSA's offices. Guests of the Maastricht-based **European Centre for Journalism** and Commission's DG Communication, the web journos came from 23 different countries (mainly from EU Member States). They were the winners from **THINK ABOUT IT** and **CLICK ABOUT IT** campaign, and paid visit to EMSA during a 'reporting expedition' dedicated to water issues.

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

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Recruitment: ICT Service Desk Assistant (deadline: 18/06); traineeships (deadline: 15/06).

Procurement: Provision of a technical secretariat (...) Marine Equipment Directive and of an enhanced database on marine equipment approvals (deadline: 27/06); Study on the yearly updating of (...) marine equipment (deadline: 27/06).

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