

EMSA ASSISTS SPAIN WITH ANTI-POLLUTION SUPPORT



EMSA contracted vessel close to the Spanish coast.

Following the collision between the oil tanker *Torm Gertrud* and the bulk carrier *New Flame* off Gibraltar on 12th August, and the partial submergence of the *New Flame*, the Spanish authorities requested EMSA assistance with anti-pollution operations. The nearest available vessel at the time was the EMSA contracted tanker *Mistra Bay*, which was quickly tasked, equipped and sent to Algeciras Bay. For pollution response purposes, the *Mistra Bay* has a recovered oil storage capacity of 1805 tonnes and the necessary cargo heating capability needed to discharge recovered oil. In addition, the Spanish authorities asked the EMSA CleanSeaNet service to supply satellite images of Algeciras Bay and the surrounding sea area (via RADARSAT and/or ENVISAT) for pollution monitoring purposes. As the *New Flame* remained in its semi-sunken state, with up to 700 tonnes of fuel on board for some time, the Spanish authorities subsequently decided to extend the service contract with the *Mistra Bay*. This is still in place at the present time, although the provision of satellite images has been discontinued. The presence of the *Mistra Bay* is under continuous review, with demobilisation dependent on a number of factors including the evolution of the *New Flame* salvage operations and the availability of appropriate levels of pollution response capacity for the area.

HNS ACTION PLAN PUBLISHED

The EMSA Action Plan for Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) Pollution Preparedness and Response has now been published. This action plan provides concise information on preparedness and response activities relating to marine HNS incidents, including information on HNS seaborne transportation, potential hazards and risks, and response options as illustrated through case studies of actual HNS pollution incidents. The action plan also provides the framework for the Agency to further develop its activities in this field and to strengthen existing preparedness and response capabilities at EU level. The complete action plan can be read at: www.emsa.europa.eu

WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES

On 18/19th September, EMSA organised a second workshop on the implementation of Directive 2000/59/EC on port reception facilities (PRF) for ship generated waste and cargo residues. This gave the opportunity to Member States and port representatives to discuss the implementation of Article 5 of the Directive. This requires that a port waste reception and handling plan is developed for all ports. These plans have to be evaluated and monitored by Member States. The results of an assessment carried out by EMSA on a sample of 129 plans, covering all Member States and all types of ports, were presented. Participants also discussed the possible way forward for implementing article on reduced waste fee for "green ships". The numerous relevant PRF related activities at IMO level (MARPOL Annex V review, PRF action plan) were also discussed.

EMSA PRESENTS AT COMMISSION TRANSPORT AND ENERGY EVENT



EMSA prepared a fully equipped 50m² stand.

Each year, the European Commission Directorate General for Energy and Transport (DG TREN) organises an information event for its staff. The programme usually focuses on a specific theme and, this year, on 20th September, it was the turn of the EU transport and energy agencies. Within the programme, Agency heads presented their responsibilities and activities and, as part of his presentation, EMSA Executive Director, Willem de Ruiter, showed a video of the Agency's oil pollution response operations, which can also now be seen via our website (www.emsa.europa.eu). The 900 attendees also had the opportunity to visit the associated exhibition where, among other things, EMSA took the opportunity to give demonstrations of the SafeSeaNet and CleanSeaNet monitoring systems.

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