

EMSA BOARD LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The 21st meeting of the Administrative Board took place on 12th June in Lisbon. The main topic was the adoption of a set of recommendations based on the final outcome of the independent external evaluation of the Agency. The recommendations, aimed at improving the working practices of the Agency, will be circulated by the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council and made public together with the evaluation findings. The Board stressed the importance of the Agency continuing to focus on activities which add value for its stakeholders (Commission, Member States, EU citizens). It said that EMSA should develop a strategic document to cover the five year horizon. The Board also approved the Activity Report 2007, the accounts, and the Multi-Annual Staff Policy Plan for the three year period 2009-2011.

WORLD HYDROGRAPHIC DAY



From left: Engineer General Bessero, Head of the French Navy Hydrographic Services; Willem de Ruiter, EMSA Executive Director; Vice-Admiral Alexandros Maratos, President of the International Hydrographic Organisation and; Admiral Augusto de Brito, Head of the Portuguese Hydrographic Institute.

On 24th June, EMSA was the host to heads and members of European hydrographic offices, who met at the Agency's headquarters in Lisbon for World Hydrographic Day. One of the principal topics presented was the part played by EMSA in the creation of a "European network for maritime surveillance." Within this initiative, EMSA will obtain hydrographic data in order to optimise the information made available when tracking ships and their cargoes in and around EU waters using the SafeSeaNet ship monitoring system. This data will be supplied either directly, or indirectly, by a number of hydrographic offices. The discussions also addressed more general hydrographic interests.

WORLD MERCHANT FLEET IN 2006

The publication of « The World Merchant Fleet in 2006 – Statistics from Equasis » has been released. This second edition, prepared by EMSA, contains an in-depth statistical analysis of the 69,500 vessels in the Equasis database using over more than 300 tables and graphs. It also includes comments on some of the more important trends. The publication of the document will contribute to greater transparency in the provision of maritime information by providing users with unique data from three PSC regimes and 40 different providers. It can be downloaded via: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/end185d007d002d001.html>

SECOND DISPERSANTS WORKSHOP

EMSA held its second dispersants workshop under the title "Towards a harmonised approach in dispersant usage in the EU" on 19-20 May in Lisbon. Prior to the event, a detailed strategy paper was prepared in order to stimulate the discussions on the issue of taking forward EU-wide harmonisation in the area of dispersant testing and approval methods. The main themes were: the presentation of recent developments in dispersant usage; a discussion of the need for, and of ways towards, a harmonised approach for dispersant testing procedures and; the presentation of results from dispersant-related R&D projects. Some of the main conclusions were: that there are no real barriers to the harmonisation of dispersant product approval testing procedures, and that such harmonisation is in principle feasible, but more likely at regional level.

THREE DEPARTMENT HEADS NEEDED

In view of the growth of the Agency to around 200 staff and beyond, the decision has been taken to regroup the activities currently spread over 12 Units into 3 Departments in order to be able to carry out the management tasks more effectively. These departments are: (A) Corporate Services; (B) Implementation (of EC Law) and (C) Operations. Three vacancies have been published for the new Head of Department positions. The closing date for applications is 18th July. For further information, please see:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/end179d006d001.html>

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