

### EMSA/EQUASIS PUBLISH STATISTICS ON SHIPPING

The European Quality Shipping Information System (Equasis) recently published statistics on shipping under the title of "promoting quality in shipping." Within the project, EMSA and Equasis worked together with the aim of presenting a statistical overview of the world's merchant fleet, with a particular focus on statistics relating to class, P&I, flag states, port state control and industrial organisations. It is a concrete, understandable and readable publication derived from a unique, large dataset of information supplied by three port state control regions (Paris, Tokyo and USCG) and various providers from the world maritime industry. This collaboration has enabled a comparison of the inspection and detention rates of 60,000 vessels to be made. The report includes 193 tables and 178 graphics and is presented under six themes. It is likely to be of use to a wide range of interests in both the public and private sectors and the complete publication has been made directly accessible through the homepage of the EMSA website at: [www.emsa.europa.eu](http://www.emsa.europa.eu)

### PROGRESS IN ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Technical dialogue between Member State experts, EMSA and the European Commission has been substantially enhanced by EMSA's creation of a permanent Consultative Technical Group for Cooperation in Marine Casualty Investigation. In its two sessions held during 2006, the group supported EMSA in the provision of a training service for the retrieval and download of Voyage Data Recorder (VDR) data from ships and in identifying practical guidelines for a common accident investigation methodology. The VDR service will be available for use by Member States in early 2007, and a further discussion of the guidelines for a draft methodology is foreseen in May. Also of note in this area, is the fact that the presentation of, and first talks on, the Directive proposal on principles in marine accident investigation will take place in February.

### LRIT KICK OFF MEETING

During the last IMO Maritime Safety Committee meeting (10-19<sup>th</sup> May 2006), members agreed to modify the SOLAS Convention in order to make reports on the use of Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) systems compulsory. It is planned that LRIT will be operational by December 2008 at the latest. In support of the LRIT initiative, the European Commission has committed itself to undertaking a feasibility study on the possible implementation of a European LRIT data

centre. Within this framework, EMSA has been tasked with monitoring LRIT developments at IMO level and with commissioning a study on the cost-benefit-analysis of the data centre. A kick off meeting has just been held in order to launch the work.

### FRENCH NAVY OFFICERS AT EMSA



On 17<sup>th</sup> January, EMSA hosted a large group of officers from the French Navy who were visiting Lisbon on a fact finding mission. After visiting NATO headquarters and their Portuguese counterparts, they were given a presentation on the tasks of the Agency, with a particular focus on its activities in the areas of maritime education assessment and pollution preparedness and response. Eventually, some of those present are likely to be given operational tasks in which they may benefit from knowledge of EMSA staff, vessels and other capabilities and services.

### PSC SEMINARS FOR 20 EU COUNTRIES

In October and November 2006, EMSA organised and partly funded two surveyor seminars for 48 port state control officers from 20 EU Member States, including Bulgaria and Romania. These officers had all been in post for less than 3 years. EMSA staff gave a series of lectures and provided several case studies for consideration. The surveyors were split into teams and, having reviewed a particular case, reported back to their colleagues in a plenary session. Their reports were then discussed and strong views were often expressed on the practicality of taking different courses of action. The lectures concentrated on carrying out PSC inspections using the procedures developed over many years by the Paris MOU. The feedback from both seminars will be used to develop and deliver four further seminars in 2007.

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