

### EMSA TO SET UP EU LRIT DATA CENTRE

At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the EU Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council agreed to the setting-up of an EU Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) Data Centre, to be managed by the Commission, in co-operation with Member States, through EMSA. The Council stressed that its objectives should include maritime security, search and rescue, maritime safety and protection of the marine environment. Automatic Identification System (AIS) reports will be integrated into the data and the development process will make use of the existing SafeSeaNet system. It is planned that the new data centre will be operational by the end of 2008.

### FIRST EU TRAINING INSPECTIONS

In October, EMSA began its programme of regular visits to EU Member States to monitor the implementation of Directive 2001/25/EC, as amended, on the minimum level of training of seafarers. The first visit took place from 8-12<sup>th</sup> October in Malta and the second took place in Cyprus from 22-26<sup>th</sup> October. Further visits will take place in Italy and Belgium before the end of the year. In Malta, EMSA inspectors visited the Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Malta Maritime Authority and the Maritime Institute of the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology. In Cyprus, the visit concentrated on the Department of Merchant Shipping. Each EU Member State will be visited once every five years and the programme of inspections in non-EU countries to verify their implementation of the requirements of the STCW Convention will also continue in the normal way.

### CRISIS COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

On 18<sup>th</sup> October, around 50 representatives from Member States maritime administrations, the media and industry met at EMSA to exchange experiences on communications relating to marine pollution incidents. Journalists explained the context (human, political, economic) in which they are working. The media, they suggested, can often be a very useful tool in relaying key information, as well as in the avoidance of misunderstanding and mistrust. Those present agreed that a number of administrations have gained valuable experience on how to communicate effectively during maritime accidents and disasters in recent years. There was a consensus that effective communication is crucial during a crisis, based on honesty, accuracy, availability, empathy and a will to work together, using clear language.

### EMSA HOSTS AMBASSADORS



Willem de Ruyter and EMSA Board member Natércia Magalhães Cabral chair ambassadors' meeting

On 4<sup>th</sup> October, EU ambassadors based in Lisbon were invited to an introductory meeting at EMSA. Prior to high level maritime discussions that will be held in Lisbon over the coming weeks, attendees were informed of the maritime priorities of the Portuguese Presidency and of the main EMSA activities. At the end of the meeting, ambassadors had the opportunity to talk with their compatriots/staff members in a relaxed atmosphere.

### EMSA AT SAFERSEAS EVENT IN BREST

EMSA had a significant presence at the Saferseas conference and exhibition which took place in Brest (France) in mid-October. The event was organised by a group of regional administrations and research centres. Several speakers mentioned the role of EMSA and its future development, while Emilio Martin Bauza, head of the EMSA Technical Co-Operation and Development Unit, paid particular attention to matters of topical interest, such as LRIT and the new EMSA role in auditing EU maritime training systems. The event was also a good opportunity for Agency delegates to judge the general level of interest in maritime safety from different sectors in France.



Visitors watch SafeSeaNet real time demonstrations.

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