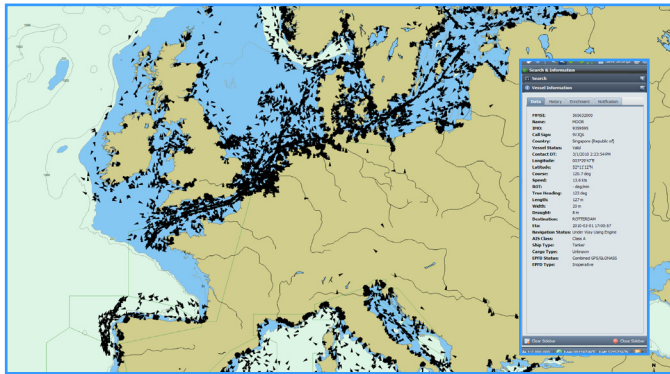


EMSA BOARD APPROVES 5-YEAR STRATEGY

On 9-10 March, the 26th meeting of the EMSA Administrative Board approved the Preliminary Work Programme and draft budget and establishment plan for 2011. The main agenda item was the EMSA 5-Year Strategy, which the Board debated and approved. Key elements in the Strategy are: dealing with emissions and greenhouse gases from ships; supporting the Commission in providing maritime surveillance and e-maritime services; further tasks concerning the social dimension in shipping, and further contributing to the improvement of maritime safety through the analysis of assessment reports leading to recommendations to changes in safety legislation and practices. The Board will meet again in Lisbon on 14 June.

SAFESEANET + CHARTS = STIRES



The STIRES interface offers a 'zoomable' chart view of vessel traffic in European waters, with full vessel information at the click of a mouse.

Tracking shipping in and around European waters has just become much easier. Launched on 10 March, **STIRES** is the latest generation module of the Agency's **SafeSeaNet** service for vessel traffic monitoring, which serves maritime administrations, port authorities, search and rescue organisations, PSC officers etc. Instead of just accessing a database, STIRES users access a web-based GIS interface offering a dynamic map of vessels in near real-time. Users can view any ships carrying hazardous cargo, all high-risk ships, ship incident reports, a full historic 'track' of vessel movements and many other functions. Identifying and locating EU-flagged ships anywhere in the world will also be possible before the end of 2010.

SIMPLER BALLAST WATER SAMPLING

As part of its Ballast Water Action Programme, EMSA held its 2nd Ballast Water Management Workshop in February. The event covered how to verify and check whether a ship is discharging ballast water, to meet the standards of the IMO's Ballast Water Management (BWM) Convention. The key outcomes of the workshop are: a common EU-wide Ballast Water Sampling Strategy and a research tender on indicative analysis and sampling. Following an IMO request, a guidance paper on these issues will be prepared for worldwide consideration at the IMO's Bulk Liquids and Gases Committee (BLG 15) in early 2011.

EMSA ROLLS OUT RED CARPET FOR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEPS



The Committee on Transport and Tourism plays a significant role in transport policy. On 23 March it adopted a report on strategic goals and recommendations for EU maritime policy until 2018.

On 30 March, MEPs from the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism (TRAN) Committee visited the Agency's Lisbon headquarters. The visit included 3 MEPs from TRAN Committee and representatives of the EU Commission, enabling them to gain greater understanding of the 'hand-on' role that EMSA plays in maritime safety and security, and marine environmental protection.

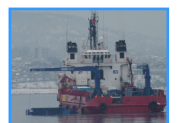
ROCK JOURNALISTS GO EMSA

Thousands of EU citizens live in direct proximity to shipping lanes, and the Agency is keen to inform communities about EMSA's role in keeping their coastlines safe and clean. On 22 March, 13 journalists from the Southern Spain press association **Asociación de la Prensa Campo de Gibraltar (APCG)** visited EMSA. The journalists work alongside one of the world's busiest shipping lanes, and also the Algeciras maritime 'filling station' for vessels, so have a keen interest in shipping affairs. On the agenda were EMSA's tools for monitoring maritime traffic, and the EMSA-contracted oilspill response vessels, one of which has Algeciras as its home port.



FIRST BULGARIAN OILSPILL EXERCISE

On 10 March, EMSA braved cold weather to carry out its first oil-spill drill with the Bulgarian Maritime Administration off the port of Varna. Two contracted oil spill recovery vessels took part: the Constanta-based **GSP Orion** and Malta-based **Santa Maria**.



This was the first time this type of exercise has been conducted in Bulgaria with the aim of testing the coordination and cooperation between EMSA's contracted vessels and Bulgarian oil spill response resources. The exercise also offered the possibility to hold a well-attended press conference.

ON THE EMSA WEBSITE

Recruitment: Contractual Agent vacancy for an Events, Missions and Human Resources support assistant.

Procurement: Invitation to apply - Service Contracts for Stand-by Oil Spill Recovery Vessel(s).

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