Mr Li Kejun, President and Chairman of the China Classification Society (CCS) and his delegation visited EMSA during November. CCS is recognised by the EU Member States to carry out ship survey activities on their behalf. Mr Li took the opportunity to hear about the new inspection regime for Port State Control in Europe, and the latest developments in EMSA’s audit process for recognised organisations.

On 10-11 November, EMSA hosted the 20th meeting of the MarED group. The group co-ordinates the Notified Bodies that carry out product conformity assessments on marine equipment for Member States under the Marine Equipment Directive (96/98/EC). The meeting also welcomed delegates from the Member States themselves, plus EMEC, a manufacturer’s association. Work focused on technical issues, and recommendations, for Member States’ consideration, within the context of the Committee on Safe Seas and the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (COSS). EMSA reported on the work achieved in this group for managing the MarED database of approved marine equipment.

This month, EMSA hosted two training sessions on the new, second generation CleanSeaNet service. The two sessions, each lasting two days, were attended by 71 participants from 25 countries. Users were trained on the new functions provided by the latest generation of CleanSeaNet, which goes live at the beginning of December 2010. CleanSeaNet is a system to deliver satellite-detected images of suspected marine pollution incidents to Member States.

On 22 November, the Agency signed a contract to provide pollution response capacity using the Limassol, Cyprus-based tanker Alexandria. The vessel will cover the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, a sensitive area close to major oil transport routes transiting the Suez Canal and those originating in Black Sea and Middle-Eastern ports. The 2008-built Alexandria belongs to Petronav Ship Management Ltd, a Cypriot shipping company. The size of the vessel means that it can permanently store oilspill response equipment on board, rather than in a land-based equipment stockpile. The service contract signed has duration of four years with a value of 4.5 million euros.

The 28th meeting of the EMSA Administrative Board took place on 18 November in Lisbon. The main points on the agenda were all approved. These were: the 2011 Work Programme, and its related budget and establishment plan.