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QUALITY SHIPPING, SAFER SEAS, CLEANER OCEANS

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EMSA MAKES DATA ON MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS PUBLIC

Data from the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) is now available for online consultation by all. The EMCIP database which stores and analyses information on marine casualties and incidents has been up and running since 2011 and contains a wealth of valuable information. Until now, however, its access had been restricted to member state and European Commission users. In agreement with these users, EMSA has released a new version of EMCIP with data sharing capabilities. While the dashboard provides aggregated figures for occurrences reported by member states within the scope of Directive 2009/18, the occurrence tab shows the list of accidents together with completed investigations. Filtering options are also available to refine the search. The overall aim of this move is to bring greater awareness to marine casualties and incidents - to why they occurred, the safety measures taken and to the subsequent recommendations resulting from the investigations.



Under the occurrence tab, a whole range of accident-related statistics are displayed with filtering options available.

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Users can view data belonging to specific cases as well as to download the final report of finished investigations.

PILOT PROJECT ADDS eCERTIFICATES TO THETIS INSPECTION DATABASE

EMSA has developed an enhanced webservice to facilitate the communication of all statutory certificates issued by EU Recognised Organisations on behalf of flag states to classed ships, in what is seen as a first step towards digitalisation. A full refresh of around 500 000 statutory and class certificates takes place each day and covers all ships which are classed with EU Recognised Organisations. During a workshop on Capacity Building, held in Lisbon on 26-27 March 2019, it was agreed that EMSA would launch a pilot project where Port State Control Officers from member states willing to take part would check the transmitted information to assess its usefulness and reliability. Their feedback will help decide on future enhancements of THETIS and, particularly, on the automated control of pre-loaded digital information. The idea is to foster desk preparation and reduce the administrative burden for inspecting authorities and industry during inspections. The pilot started on 1 July 2019 and to date 50 questionnaires have been returned. Preliminary assessment of the feedback suggests a good level of availability of information and usefulness for the inspection process. The THETIS inspection database supports several pieces of legislation and, in this particular case, Regulation 391/2009 (EC) on Common Rules and Standards for Recognised Organisations. This piece of legislation requires Recognised Organisations to report information to the THETIS database

EMSA RPAS GIVE REAL TIME SUPPORT DURING OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISES IN DENMARK & GERMANY

EMSA successfully participated in Oil Pollution Response (OPR) exercises in Denmark and Germany, supporting authorities with live feed footage from lightweight Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS). The Rostock exercise in Germany on 15 August provided search and rescue and oil spill response support. Flying from on board a ship, the RPAS was able to detect a simulated spill (using popcorn) and to locate a man overboard through its optical and infrared sensor. The BALEX DELTA exercise on 27-29 August in Rønne, Denmark, included an open ship and equipment showcasing event. During the exercise, the RPAS was operated from shore, with a flight demonstration over Rønne Harbour to show the aircraft's capabilities as a support tool for OPR. The lightweight RPAS used in both exercises was the Indago vertical take-off and landing model. It is particularly suited to provide support during operations in areas of pollution response, safety and maritime surveillance.



RPAS image from simulated man-over-board exercise

ANNUAL REVIEW OFFERING VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO THE SEAFARER LABOUR MARKET IN THE EU NOW PUBLISHED

On 6 August, EMSA published its fourth annual review on Seafarers' Statistics in the EU. The review offers a valuable insight into the European labour market in terms of the number of seafarers holding valid certificates and endorsements in 2017 and is based on data extracted from EMSA's STCW Information System. The main beneficiaries of the review for policy-making purposes - are EU member states and the European Commission. Additionally, ship owners and operators may benefit as they can gain awareness of the full magnitude of manpower available in the EU to crew their vessels. The information is also considered useful for maritime education and training institutions in the EU, as it makes it easier to assess market needs for these services. Finally, researchers may be interested in some of the statistical output, as well as seafarers and the organisations that represent them.



SAFEMED STEERING COMMITTEE TAKES STOCK & TRACES WAY FORWARD

On 3-4 September, the third Steering Committee of the EUfunded SAFEMED project was held at EMSA's premises in Lisbon. The meeting was attended by participants from seven of the nine beneficiary countries, namely from Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon and Morocco as well as representatives from the European Commission (DG ENV, DG MOVE). In addition, representatives from Turkey, from the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on PSC (MED MoU), the IMO/REMPEC and the UfM attended the meeting as observers. EMSA presented the activities undertaken from October 2018 to September 2019 focussing specifically on those related to: Flag State, Port State, VTMIS, protection of marine environment, human element in maritime safety and maritime security, security, Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum, bilateral activities and communication. The latest development of the new IT platform for PSC Officers in the Med MoU Region, known as THETIS-Med, was presented. This is scheduled to be operational from 1 January 2020 and training sessions will be organised for PSC Officers from the Med MoU to enable them to make the most efficient use of the platform. All beneficiary countries expressed their satisfaction with the work done and the results achieved so far and put forward some new activities to be implemented at regional and bilateral level in 2019-2021. Many of these activities were included in the action plan adopted by the Steering Committee.



GEORGIA LATEST COUNTRY TO JOIN THE EU LRIT COOPERATIVE DATA CENTRE

The European Commission has accepted Georgia's request to become part of the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre, thereby enabling authorised users from their country to access LRIT information on Georgian flagged vessels worldwide and foreign vessels approaching their ports in a cost effective way. The application made in November 2017 was considered in light of the criteria listed in the Council Resolution concerning the EU LRIT CDC, and was accepted in March 2019. The additional IMO assessments were completed in July 2019. After Croatia (which joined the EU in 2013), Montenegro and Tunisia, Georgia is the fourth country to join the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre.



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PROCUREMENT: Technical and operation services for the CISE project (deadline: 3/10/2019); Security services for EMSA and the EMCDDA (25/9/2019); SafeSeaNet European Index Server - ICT services (24/9/2019); Central organislations and locations databases - ICT services (24/9/2019); See website for more.