

EMSA SUPPORTS MULTIPURPOSE MARITIME EXERCISE TOMIS 2026 IN THE WESTERN BLACK SEA

EMSA took part in the Multipurpose Maritime Exercise (MME) TOMIS 2026, hosted by the Romanian Coast Guard off Constanța on 14 August 2026. The exercise formed part of the wider Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO) Western Black Sea 2026, led by Frontex, with EMSA and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) supporting Romanian authorities throughout. The exercise ran through a single connected scenario: an irregular migration case leading into a search and rescue operation with medical evacuation, the identification of an unmanned surface vessel, a marine pollution incident and response, and a fisheries inspection. EMSA supported the Romanian coordination centre in **Constanța** with its Integrated Maritime Services (IMS), helping build a shared picture of the maritime situation as the scenario unfolded. IMS brought together vessel monitoring and tracking, vessel detection, satellite imagery, meteorological data, anomaly detection and coastal monitoring, layered onto national systems to strengthen situational awareness and support the coordination centre's decision-making. During the pollution response phase, participants also worked together on incident reporting through SafeSeaNet, the vessel traffic monitoring system operated by EMSA under the VTMIS Directive.



EMSA supported the Frontex-led exercise in the Western Black Sea through its integrated maritime services.

OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE CONDUCTED OFF THE BELGIAN COAST AS PART OF MULTIPURPOSE MARITIME OPERATION

On 17 June, seven Belgian, Dutch and EMSA vessels carried out a major oil pollution response exercise off the coast of Zeebrugge, testing how partners would contain and recover a large oil slick before it could reach sensitive areas such as the Zwin Nature Reserve and the Scheldt estuary. Aircraft and RPAS detected and monitored the slick, vessels moved into formation, and sweeping arms and skimmers recovered the oil at sea, with ship-to-ship transfer keeping the operation running. The EMSA stand-by vessel Interballast III took part alongside Belgian and Dutch units. The exercise was coordinated by the Marine Environment Service of the Belgian Federal Public Service (FPS) Public Health and carried out by Belgian Coast Guard partners, in cooperation with Dutch and European organisations. It was run within the Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO) in the La Manche & Southern North Sea area – coordinated by EMSA in close cooperation with Frontex and EFCA – strengthening cross-border marine pollution preparedness and response.



The exercise aimed to strengthen cross-border preparedness in pollution monitoring and response.

EMSA TAKES PART IN OPERATION BREEZE 2026 IN BULGARIA

On 17 July, in the vicinity of Burgas, Bulgaria, EMSA participated in the annual operational exercise Breeze 2026, organised by the Bulgarian Navy together with the Bulgarian Maritime Administration. The Agency mobilised the stand-by oil spill recovery vessel Amalthia, based in Constanta, Romania. The vessel simulated oil spill recovery with its sweeping arms. EMSA also mobilised a high-speed oil containment and recovery system, Current Buster 4, from its Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) stockpile in Varna, Bulgaria, which was also deployed at sea by the organisers. The exercise activities were observed by the President of the Republic of Bulgaria.



The Amalthia, based in Constanta, supported Operation BREEZE by simulating oil spill recovery with its sweeping arms. Also mobilised was equipment from EMSA's Equipment Assistance Service stockpile in Varna.

PUBLICATION OF A VACANCY FOR THE FUNCTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EMSA

Applications are now open for the post of Executive Director of EMSA. The Executive Director will lead and manage the Agency and take overall responsibility for its operations ensuring the achievement of the Agency's objectives. The vacancy notice is published in the Official Journal of the European Union and can be accessed here: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/4370/oj> The deadline for applications is 29 September 2026, 12.00 noon Brussels time.



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VACANCIES: Officer- Horizontal Digital Services (02/09/2026); Officer - Earth Observation Services - Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (23/09/2026); European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA): Publication of a vacancy for the function of Executive Director (29/09/2026). [See website for more.](#)