

Detailed Minutes of the 73rd EMSA Administrative Board meeting 16 & 17 June 2025

1. Welcome from the Chairman and adoption of the agenda

New Board Members/alternates were welcomed, as listed below.

The agenda was adopted. No conflicts of interest were declared.

New Board Members and alternates:

Spain

- **Board Member:** Ms Ana Núñez Velasco, Director General for the Merchant Marine, replacing Mr Gustavo Santana

Poland

- **Alternate:** Ms Sonia Knobloch-Sieradzka, Deputy Director, Department of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation, Ministry of Infrastructure, replacing Ms Grabowska

Proxies/absences: Denmark, Slovakia and Austria were not present and did not provide proxies.

The Executive Director also welcomed the newly nominated representatives as well as the Board and recalled the social event hosted by Cyprus.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes of the 72nd EMSA Administrative Board online meeting from March 2025 were circulated on 9 April 2025 and no comments were received.

The Administrative Board approved the minutes of the last Administrative Board meeting which took place via video conference on 12 March 2025.

4. Workshop on “Making the EMSA Pollution Response Services toolbox “future-proof”

The Executive Director introduced the Workshop as a key step in the process towards a future-proof Pollution Response Services toolbox.

She recalled the roadmap agreed last November, the steps accomplished since then with the results of the written consultation that registered a high level of interest, with replies from all 22 EU coastal States, the two EFTA coastal States (Norway and Iceland) and Luxembourg.

Ms Markovic Kostelac further explained the general organisation of the Workshop which would allow the Agency to prepare a first draft of the Report on options for the adaptation of the Pollution Response toolbox with the associated budgetary implications. Following a second technical workshop with the CTG experts in September, the draft would be reviewed at the November Board meeting to identify the possible way forward.

The Administrative Board took part in the Workshop on “Making the EMSA Pollution Response Services toolbox “future-proof”.

3. Adoption of the list of “A” items (this item was taken in the morning of the 17 June)

The Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Committee, Mr Eric Banel, reported that the necessary quorum for the meeting had been in place with the participation in the meeting of the representatives from Belgium, France, Spain, Sweden, Germany and the Commission. Relevant EMSA staff members and management were also present.

The Committee had reviewed all the “A” points and could recommend that the Administrative Board take note, consider or adopt them as appropriate, “en bloc”.

Ms Montagnon (Commission) suggested to amend the Decision establishing the mandate of the Administrative and Finance Committee introducing a clause for the documents to be circulated with sufficient time in advance.

While the Chairpersons agreed to this proposal, the Agency reiterated that they would do their best to ensure that the documents are circulated to the Administrative and Finance Committee in due time.

The Administrative Board approved/took note of/adopted the following “A” items en bloc, following the report and positive recommendation of the Administrative and Finance Committee.

3a EMSA Financial Statement 2024 – took note of the preliminary observations of the European Court of Auditors and approved the accounts for 2024.

The Agency’s accountant informed the Board of the total balance for 2024 of 73.2 M, up 7% compared to the previous year, mainly due to 1) the increase in intangible assets (+1.8 M) and decrease in equipment (-2.5 M) and 2) the decrease in short-term pre-financing (-1.1M) and increase in cash (+5.9 M). The economic outturn of the year is of -0.8 M.

Budgetary execution for C1 (credits of the year) was again high: 99.2% of commitment execution and 97.1% of payment execution. After taking into account automatic carry-overs of PA (i.e. C8 funds: appropriations carried over automatically), the Agency reached 98.6% of payment execution.

The European Court of Auditors preliminary observations were received on 28 May. The Court did not issue any findings and therefore there were no changes compared to the provisional accounts, presented to the Board in March.

At this meeting, the Board is requested to approve the final accounts subject to the final ECA report to be available in October.

The Commission congratulated EMSA for the high budget execution.

3b 2025 Appropriations cashed – took note

The Agency recalled that specific sources of revenue, at the beginning of the year are recorded as ‘p.m.’ (pro memoria or token entry) since these funds can only be loaded once cash payment has been received by the Agency in the bank account.

A total of EUR 9,086,576.25 has been received since the March Board meeting.

Amount	Remittent	Purpose
7,705,000.00	DG DEFIS	First pre-financing payment received in the framework of the Copernicus Cooperation Agreement to finance activities from approximately April to September 2025

150,000.00	UK, Canada and Norway	Funds received as the annual fee for 2025
274,667.00	EFCA	Second pre-financing payment received under Specific Agreement No1 (2023-2026) for activities scheduled in 2025
866,459.25	DG CLIMA	Fourth pre-financing payment received in the framework of the SLA on THETIS MRV-ETS to finance activities until approximately the 1st quarter of 2026
90,000.00	EUDA	Funds received as the annual fee for the use of the EMSA Conference Centre
450,00	Miscellaneous	Reimbursement for travel expenses that were initially overpaid for the EMTER 25 Launch Event
9,086,576.25	Total	

Given the foreseen amendment to the SPD 2025-2027 and the associated budget and establishment plan (see the agenda item 6 at the Board meeting), appropriations cashed since January will be part of the amending budget n°1.

3c Monitoring of findings and recommendations from internal & external audits & EMSA follow up – *took note*

The Agency presented the usual summary table outlining the recommendations/findings and the EMSA actions planned or undertaken.

Compared to the table presented in March the final outcome of the audit on the EMSA Quality Systems, performed by TÜV Rheinland is included. This did not lead to any recommendations.

- As regards the Internal Audit Service it is important to mention that the implementation of the actions related to the HR audit are all on track and with no foreseeable delays in the implementation.
- IAS informed the Agency of its audit plan for 2025 where no engagement is planned to be carried out
- The preliminary observations of the European Court of Auditors were received on 28 May 2025 and provide a positive opinion on the reliability of the accounts as well as on the legality and regularity of revenue and payments underlying the accounts in all material respects.

The European Court of Auditors did not issue any finding and will close the finding that was issued last year.

The Commission and the Chair of the Committee commended the Agency's good work in terms of follow up of findings and recommendations from internal & external audits.

In relation to the finding of the IAS in the framework of the audit on Human Resources management and ethics, the Commission and the Chair recalled the importance for the Administrative Board to be informed in time of the action plan of the Agency for synergies and optimisation of support services to ensure a smooth delivery of new tasks in a context of zero growth for the administration. Information on the plan would be provided in November.

5. EMSA Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024

The Executive Director recalled that the Board discussed, adopted and provided its Assessment of the EMSA CAAR 2024 at the March meeting taking into account the European Court of Auditors' observations of previous years and subject to the preliminary observations of the European Court of Auditors.

Following the receipt of the Court's preliminary observations on the Agency's accounts for 2024, on 28 May 2025, providing a positive opinion on the reliability of the accounts as well as on the legality and regularity of revenue and payments underlying the accounts in all material respects, the role of the Administrative Board at this meeting was to confirm its adoption and Assessment.

As usual, the accounts 2024 will be formally approved by the Board once the formal approval of the Court of Auditors becomes available in early autumn.

The Administrative Board confirmed the adoption of the EMSA Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2024 in accordance with Articles 15(2)(d) and 10(2)(b) of Regulation (EC) n° 1406/2002 as amended, and its assessment, in accordance with Article 48 of the EMSA Financial Regulation.

6. Amendment of the SPD 2025-2027

The Executive Director recalled the agreement on the final text of the amendments to the EMSA founding Regulation reached by the co-legislator on 20 May 2025.

Anticipating the steps to follow, including the publication in the Official Journal, the actual entry into force of the new Regulation would most likely only take place in November.

Consequently, the associated human and financial resources would only become available in October/November 2025. This represented a challenge for the implementation of projects in this calendar year and led to the decision, upon informing the Commission, to reschedule the implementation of the new tasks under the future Regulation as from January 2026.

Accordingly, the Agency submitted to the Board an amendment of the Agency's SPD 2025 - 2027 including its budget and establishment plan, which contained dedicated sections for the new Regulation.

The Executive Director detailed the activities that were impacted by the shift to 2026:

Research in MASS: The new study on the navigation, communications and connectivity for MASS was launched in 2025. However, with the associated financial resources only available in November, there would not be enough time to carry out the tasks envisaged in the project and to execute the payments before the year end. Therefore, the procurement will be finalised and the framework contract signed in 2025 and the implementation of the first specific contracts will only start in January 2026 onwards.

Technical assistance ROs: The technical assistance on possible remedial measures or the imposition of fines to RO related to "ship safety" can be provided by EMSA by using its existing staff with

immediate effect. The assistance related to corporate/financial/legal insights, for which there is no expertise in the Agency, and for which an acquisition channel would need to be in place, will be available from 2026.

Passenger ship safety: The first phase of transfer of the Dynamic Overview of National Authorities (DONA) to cloud native architecture was planned in 2025 but will be implemented only in 2026.

Research and assist with Deployment of alternative fuels: With regard to the safety of alternative fuels, the tender for a study to apply the risk-based assessment methodology (RBAT) to alternative fuels (ammonia, hydrogen and fuel cells) will be launched in 2025 but will be implemented only in 2026.

EMAC: The preparation of recruitment for new staff will start in 2025, while the actual taking up of functions will start in 2026 and building the back-end IT solution for deepened analysis (Blue Data Warehouse and IMS toolbox) supporting the EMAC tasks will be slightly delayed.

EMSWe: A solution was found – in agreement with DG MOVE - for the tasks planned for 2025 from the existing Contribution Agreement so as not to delay these tasks.

A discussion with DG MOVE will have to take place about the implications of the new text of the Founding Regulation whereby EMSA is supposed to take over the IT components of the EMSW, which have been developed and are currently maintained by DG DIGIT of the Commission.

In relation to the establishment plan for 2025, this meant a decrease from 229 to 224 staff, deducting 5 posts for the new tasks of the revision of the EMSA mandate. In addition, the 6 new contract agents for EMAC would come in 2026 instead of 2025.

In terms of financial resources, the adjustment related to the EMSA mandate represented a decrease of the EU subsidy for 2025 by 1,791,000 EUR.

In addition, there was an increase of 23,000 EUR due to an adjustment in the methodology for the EFTA contribution, different than what was calculated previously.

In conclusion, the Amending Budget No1/2025 brought the EMSA budget from 104,334,668 EUR to 116,540,173 EUR.

The opportunity of this amendment was also taken to adjust the project financed activities balance, which normally we would have done only at the end of the year, representing an amount of 13,972,372 EUR and stemming from:

- Surveillance SLAs: pre-financing payments from Frontex and EFCA (5,251,917 EUR)
- Copernicus: Pre-financing payment (7,705,000 EUR)
- EQUASIS: Payment of annual fees for 2025 from UK, CA and NO (150,000 EUR)
- THETIS MRV-ETS: Pre-financing payment from DG CLIMA (866,459 EUR)

Ms Fotini Ioannidou (Commission) thanked the Polish Presidency for the efficient conducting of negotiations that led to a solid and future-proof mandate of the Agency and confirmed that probably by November the revised mandate should be in place. She recalled that the funds returned would be lost but also stressed the importance of continuing the implementation of tasks such as EMSWe.

The Executive Director joined Ms Ioannidou in thanking the Polish Presidency in respect to the finalisation of the process and its importance for the stability of the organisation and the Agency's ability to provide the Member States with its services. She further stated that the Agency looked forward to the

final adoption of the future Regulation and was prepared for the absorption of new tasks. On the issue of the EMSWe the Agency would use the funds from the existing SLA thus ensuring the necessary continuity and bridging the gap between the two mandates. She looked forward to the upcoming discussions on this complex system and exercise.

The Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Committee Mr Banel reported on its discussions on this agenda item and provided a positive opinion to the Board on the adoption of the proposed amendment.

The Chairman confirmed the adoption by the Administrative Board of the Decision amending the SPD 2025-2027 and associated budget and establishment plan.

Following the provisional agreement on the revision of the EMSA mandate reached by the co-legislator on 20 May 2025 during the second trilogue and the anticipated timing of the remaining milestones of the legislative process for the adoption of EMSA's revised Founding Regulation and its expected publication in the Official Journal in November 2025, the Administrative Board adopted the Decision amending the SPD 2025-2027 and associated budget and establishment plan.

Update on Agency's activities (oral presentations¹)

6a General information on work programme and budget implementation

As per established practice, under this agenda item the Executive Director updated the Board on the state of play of the work programme which was on track with an outlook of around 98% of the planned actions to be implemented by the end the year.

Few of the actions were cancelled, the majority at the request of our stakeholders: the Commission for some inspections (maritime security, STCW to third countries) and the Member States for some technical support.

In terms of budget, the Agency expected – in line with the trend for several years now - a high level of implementation despite the setback due to the bankruptcy of one of the main RPAS contractors impacting contracts and payments which would be addressed in detail in the presentation to follow.

The Executive Director was also very pleased to inform the Board that the situation in Title 1 was satisfactory and that there was no need this year for transfers from operational budget lines.

The Administrative Board took note of the information provided by the Agency on the work programme and budget implementation.

6b European cooperation on coast guard functions - 2025 Budget execution

The Executive Director first presented the part of the Coast Guard activities related to **Information sharing**: the legacy RPAS DC was formally decommissioned and fully replaced by the new system which integrated state-of-the-art technologies, significantly enhancing video transmission performance and overall quality.

¹ All presentations provided at the 73rd AB meeting are available at the Administrative Board extranet page : [73rd Administrative Board meeting \[restricted\]](#)

She outlined actions to enhance the maritime picture provided via the Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) including: planned IMS Mobile App developments during 2025 implementing advanced Vessel Track Queries functionalities; the new version of the ABM Near Real -Time service with several improvements of the vessels of interest filtering.

The System-to-System Satellite-AIS exchange interface was under testing with Ireland, Spain and Sweden and the IMS Chat Tool was now available via Single Sign On (SSO).

In the area of **RPAS activities** Ms Markovčić Kostelac also reassured the Board that the mitigating measures presented to the Board in March following the Nordic Unmanned (NU) bankruptcy were on track: RPAS Regional Services Operations were re-planned and allocated to other EMSA contractors while EMSA's RPAS on-board of OPRVs and EFCA vessel were ensured by NU and the new owner, fully ensuring continuity of service.

The Director outlined the various RPAS Regional Services operations planned in 2025 as well as the RPAS services planned for EFCA vessels. In addition, and although funded from the APM envelope, the RPAS services provided in the context of the MMO in the Channel and the Southern North Sea, hosted by EMSA, contributed valuable use cases including emissions monitoring, support to search and rescue, maritime traffic monitoring, amongst others.

Finally, procurements were ongoing to replace the existing contracts for all types of RPAS services as needed, and to ensure continuity.

As concerns **Capacity Building**, all planned Activities for 2025 within the context of the EMSA Academy and financed through the Coast Guard Cooperation budget were on track in accordance with the Harmonised Training Program (HTP). The Director outlined the Common Core Curricula delivered, ongoing and planned, highlighting the new CCC for PSC Inspectors (new Entrants and Refreshers) which was delivered for the first time as part of the revised training policy of the Paris MOU with six sessions scheduled for later in 2025. Part-Time Courses and tailor-made national trainings were delivered and a series of webinars were developed on crucial environmental issues such as the enhanced THETIS-MRV, EU ETS and the MED SECA.

In terms of **budget execution**, Ms Markovčić Kostelac informed the Board that the current estimate was 100% of commitments and 99% of payments.

The Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Committee Mr Banel reported on its discussions on the projected 2025 budget execution in this field, confirming a positive opinion of the Committee on the status of implementation of the overall Coast Guard budget envelope for 2025.

The Agency took note of the request from Cyprus seconded by France to develop training in line with the new Flag State Directive notably in relation to Flag State Surveyors.

The Administrative Board took note of the 2025 Budget execution of the European cooperation on coast guard functions activities.

6c Relevant tenders and developments in the field of Anti-Pollution Measures

The Executive Director recalled the 4 lots in the vessel tender launched in 2025, as approved by the AB in November 2024:

- Bay of Biscay as per initial planning aiming to replace the contract expiring in May 2026
- Canary Islands and Madeira - taking into consideration the traffic patterns and the increased risks in that area in the current geo-political challenges
- Atlantic North/Irish sea which after Brexit represented a gap in the network, however no interest has been shown so this lot is unsuccessful

- Northern Baltic Sea, for a vessel with ice class notation in an area that due to the current geopolitical situation is experiencing higher risk related to the transport of Russian oil by the dark fleet

As demonstrated with previously unsuccessful attempts, the three regional lots are quite challenging in terms of finding suitable vessels.

The Executive Director confirmed that the tender was ongoing according to schedule and the Agency is expected to finalise the process in time for the November board meeting.

The new EAS Tender to replace the existing contract in Varna, Bulgaria was ongoing and expected to be signed before October 2025.

Following the preparation phase, the new EAS contract in Southern Europe was accepted and in operation since 12 April with the contractor Castalia and warehouse located in Ravenna, Italy, offering 1,000 m² storage area for equipment and dispersants.

In terms of RPAS emissions monitoring operations (multipurpose operations), flights were on-going in France since May and were planned to be extended to Belgium during August, pending approval of permits to fly in Belgium.

In the Baltic Sea the Agency will perform emissions monitoring for Germany starting in June and ending in September and which included multipurpose maritime surveillance activities.

In the Port of Barcelona operations were ongoing continuously from June 2024 until March 2025, performing emissions measurements on ships in the port in addition to other tasks as requested by port authorities with a total of 625 sulphur emissions measurements undertaken.

Following a first procurement for **RPAS Emissions Services in Ports** in mid-2024 with no bids, EMSA relaunched a procurement in December 2024 which again resulted in no bids in the 2nd attempt. A market consultation had been launched in June in order to better understand the reasons for these unsuccessful attempts. A new procurement with a new approach based on the results of the market consultation would be launched in Q4 2025.

The provision of CSN service continued in 2025 with 3059 images delivered for Member States and 367 images for ENP Beneficiary Countries by the end of May.

The CSN enhancements also continued with the Sentinel-2 preliminary market consultation now closed and the draft report finalised.

As part of the latest revision of Directive 2005/35/EC on Ship-Source Pollution (SSP), EMSA launched this preliminary market consultation to understand the EO industry's capacity to provide services for detection of pollutants as well as detection and characterisation of vessels, features and activities based on optical images from Sentinel-2.

While in some areas the technology exists (e.g. detection of oil spills (Annex I), sewage (Annex IV), garbage (Annex V) for other substances (detection of noxious liquid substances (Annex II) and harmful substances in packaged form (Annex III) the technology is not yet mature. A procurement procedure for these services will potentially be launched in Q4 2025.

Considering Member States new obligations under the revised SSP Directive in what concerns CleanSeaNet pollution detection verification, EMSA will reinforce the pollution monitoring component of its multipurpose RPAS operations, to support Member States' pollution follow up to CleanSeaNet pollution detections. The Agency looked forward to more systematic reporting by Member States on the outcome of satellite detections as this information would feed back into service improvements.

In addition, a new framework contract was signed with the Italian company E-Geos for the provision of licenses for COSMO-SkyMed images which would allow the broadening of CSN's portfolio in terms of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite images.

The new EODC was also subject to developments that were going according to plans with full operations expected in 2026 for the provision of all EMSA's Earth Observations services to EO communities.

The Executive Director announced an estimated execution of 100% of commitment appropriations and 99% of payment appropriations.

France welcomed the excellent cooperation with Belgium in the MMO highlighting the very appreciated CSN tool that proved to be a very efficient and useful service for the Member States.

The Chairman also congratulated the Agency on great services and an excellent budget execution.

The Administrative Board took note of the state of play of the 4-lot vessel tender and notably the fact that no interest was received for the Atlantic North/Irish Sea. Therefore, in addition to the scheduled replacement for the Bay of Biscay, only two of the three contracts for the geographical areas for which gaps had been identified would potentially be successful by the end of the process. An update on the process would be provided at the November meeting.

6d Implementation of the Cybersecurity Regulation

Mr Leendert Bal, Head of Department 3, recalled the entry into force on 7 January 2024 of the EU Cybersecurity Regulation 2023/2841 which aimed at establishing a high common level of cybersecurity across EU institutions.

Its implementation foresaw a number of comprehensive cybersecurity measures and regular assessments based on some key principles: address cybersecurity with a comprehensive all-risk-based approach, responsibility of all staff without exception and security by design from the inception of every project/service and throughout the whole service lifecycle.

EMSA is exposed to cyberthreats as part of the maritime sector and as an EU Institution with unique maritime data sets operated in-house, a large media visibility and a large digital surface of attack with hundreds of services exposed to public interest. Data from 2024 showed 401,000 security alerts, 4,235 alerts reviewed, 144 investigations conducted and 1 major incident which led to the application of several new mitigations.

Cybersecurity awareness sessions were delivered by EMSA and CERT-EU in December 2024 with 300 participants from both EMSA and EUDA, tailored for both users and technical staff and focusing on phishing and social engineering, data and device protection, passwords, incident reporting all aiming at promoting a strong security culture.

Mr Bal further detailed the EMSA Cybersecurity Risk Assessment and the key takeaways and challenges: while the Regulation sets a high cybersecurity standard for EU bodies with an impact on operations, its implementation recommended an adequate percentage of IT budget be invested in cybersecurity, proportional to the cybersecurity risk in the longer term in the order of at least 10%. EMSA's current investment stood at around 5% and additional resources in terms of staff or budget were not foreseen by the Regulation.

Ms Montagnon (Commission) thanked the Agency for the overview on the implementation of the Cybersecurity Regulation and stressed the importance for the Board to be aware of what was being done in this area. All Institutions and all Agencies were now preparing for the next phase of the risk

assessment. Business continuity and awareness were very important as the Institutions faced a 30% increase of cyber-attacks each year and were only as secure as their weakest link. She further hoped that with the support of CERT EU there would be more resistance in the coming months and years.

The Executive Director acknowledged the importance of cybersecurity for an Agency like EMSA and hoped the effort and resources needed to implement this very complex Regulation would be taken into account in the next MFF.

The Administrative Board took note of the information provided by the Agency on the implementation of the Cybersecurity Regulation concerning EU Agencies and EC bodies.

The Administrative Board also agreed that this would become a standing agenda item at June meetings.

7. Status of the EMSA Draft Single Programming Document 2026 – 2028

The Executive Director recalled that at this stage of the programming cycle, upon discussions and possible written comments by the Administrative Board by 30 June as well as the Commission Opinion expected by 1 July, the SPD 2026-2028 would undergo the usual finetuning over the summer in view of its final adoption in November.

The Annual Strategic Plan 2026 on the coast guard cooperation would also be included as well as possible requests for technical assistance (no requests were tabled at this stage).

The impact of the amendment of the SPD2025 already discussed under agenda item 6 would also be reflected, notably adding in 2026 the actions stemming from the new mandate that were originally scheduled for 2025, including the recruitment of foreseen new staff.

The Executive Director explained the Agency's estimates of revenue for 2026 with a total budget of €116,955,026 representing a decrease of 168.534 EUR (or – 0.15%) due to the decrease of the EFTA rate from 2.79% to 2.64%, compared to the figure of 117.131.725 of the draft SPD 2026-2028 that was endorsed in January. This reduction would be offset by decreasing the Title 1 expenditure dedicated to the social measures.

Regarding Project Financed Actions, the forecast for 2026 amounted to approximately €25.3 million but was subject to possible revision.

In terms of the Agency's establishment plan, the amendment of SPD 2025-2027 did not affect the establishment plan for 2026 as the additional 5 staff that were foreseen to start in 2025 under the revised mandate were already included in 2026 with a total of 238 statutory posts (compared to the previous year + 5 for the maritime safety package and + 9 for the revised EMSA mandate).

In addition to statutory staff, 41 Contract Agents and 18 Seconded National Experts were foreseen under the EU subsidy. The full EMSA staff would also include 38 CAs financed through project financed activities, bringing the grand total to 335.

The Agency took the opportunity to provide information on the evolution of the distribution of the staff body between operational and administrative job profiles. In view of the need, identified by the HR audit, for synergies and optimisation of support services to support a smooth delivery of the growing tasks and activities, the Agency wished to highlight the efficiency gains already achieved in this area and which enabled a reduction in the share of administrative staff from 20.20% in 2018 down to 14.75% in 2024.

The Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Committee Mr Banel reported on the discussions held at the Committee on the resource-related aspects of the draft EMSA Single Programming Document 2026-2028 and confirmed the positive opinion of the Committee.

Ms Ioannidou (Commission) noted the particular importance of this programming document as it marked the first year of the new regime in terms of the Agency's multi-annual strategy, which was now integral to the document and not separate, and because the document touched on the first year of the next Multi-annual Financial Framework. The forthcoming formal Opinion on the document would emphasize the Agency's new mandate, which would be fully in place with the upcoming adoption of the revised Founding Regulation. The tasks and priorities set herein should be fully reflected in the programming document. Among those priorities requiring EMSA's support, she highlighted the Industrial Maritime Strategy, the Port Strategy and the Ocean Pact. The decline of Europe's share of world shipping would be one of the questions. While maritime safety would as always be the number one priority, sustainability and decarbonisation were fast behind. Similarly EMSA's role in supporting digitalisation in the sector was crucial and could only increase, with ongoing and future work related to the EMSWe, electronic certificates, connecting databases, AI and cybersecurity. The Agency's role in relation to safety and security at international level and in the context of the IMO was also to be noted. She also looked forward to specific information on the allocation of resources for new tasks and on the implementation of the new tasks.

The Executive Director recalled that the programming document was structured in such a way as to distinctly show new tasks with the associated resources. An update on the implementation of new tasks would be provided at the June 2026 Board meeting.

In response to Ms Montagnon (Commission) on how IT support was categorised, Mr Bal explained that support related to the maritime applications was considered operational and presented in the corresponding sections in the document, while support related to corporate services was considered administrative.

The Chairman recalled the deadline of 30 June to provide written comments.

The Administrative Board took note of the information provided by the Agency on the latest operational and budgetary developments with potential impact on the Draft Single Programming Document 2026-2028 and the corresponding Draft Budget and Establishment Plan for 2026, including the impact of the amendment of the Single Programming Document 2025-2027 adopted under Agenda Item 6; as well as information on planned contract agents and seconded national experts under the EU subsidy and on expected project financed human and financial resources and was invited to provide written comments by 30 June 2025.

8. Appointment of the Deputy Accounting Officer

The Executive Director recalled that the Agency had one staff member performing the functions of the Accounting Officer appointed by the Administrative Board since July 2024.

Due to the independence of the Accounting Officer prescribed by the EMSA Financial Regulation, certain functions cannot be performed by other staff members, meaning that in case of unexpected or prolonged absences of the Accounting Officer, business continuity in this area cannot be ensured.

EU Agencies face similar concerns. In particular, the Accounting Officers of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and EMSA have already been collaborating informally through existing networks and expressed their willingness to provide each other backup during planned or unexpected absences.

Based on this, EMSA and FRA considered that formally appointing the FRA's Accounting Officer as EMSA's Deputy Accounting Officer and vice versa - through the SLA submitted to the Board - would ensure business continuity and also allow for potential synergies between both Agencies related to the Accounting Officer function.

15 July 2025

Appointment and termination of duties of the Accounting Officer are governed by the Agency's Financial Regulation Article 50 that specifies that the Accounting Officer is appointed by the Administrative Board based on their particular competence, as evidenced by diplomas or relevant professional experience.

The Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Committee Mr Banel recalled that the appointment of the Deputy Accounting Officer was not in the mandate of the Committee. The issue was nevertheless discussed and Mr Miltos, the appointment of whom was sought as from 1 July 2025, was able to attend the Administrative and Finance Committee meeting on 4 June for the relevant agenda item and introduced himself.

The Chairman confirmed that the Board could adopt the Decision appointing the Deputy Accounting Officer Mr Miltos as from 1 July 2025.

The Administrative Board appointed Mr Andreas Miltos as Deputy Accounting Officer for EMSA from 1 July 2025.

9. Any Other Business

The Executive Director took the opportunity to update the Administrative Board on the new Commission delegated Regulation updating the rates for daily allowances and accommodation allowances for all EU Member States, which entered into force on 13 May 2025.

The EMSA Rules on Reimbursement of Expenses to Experts and High-Level Experts foresee that the rates are automatically updated when a delegated Regulation updating the rates enters into force. Hence the new rates are applicable for experts and Administrative Board members for which invitations letters are sent as of 13 May 2025.

For Portugal the accommodation allowance increased by 17% from 101 EUR to 121 EUR and the daily allowance by 13% from 83 EUR to 95 EUR (and from 166 EUR to 190 EUR for high level experts).

The Executive Director also thanked Ms Lemonia Tsaroucha – EFTA Surveillance Authority - for her longstanding support and wished her well in her future career.

Ms Markovic Kostelac asked for the floor to briefly recall EMSA's commitment and work on the promotion of maritime careers and topics related to the marine environment and present the recently held EMSA competition for second year elementary school students, on the subject "If the sea could talk what it would tell us". Many contributions were received and materialised in a great event, a short film of which was also presented to the Board.

Dates of next EMSA's Administrative Board Meeting:

(subject to availability of the final Danish Council calendar of meetings)

Administrative and Finance Committee: Thursday 6 November 2025 pm, online meeting

Administrative Board: Wednesday 12 November pm and Thursday 13 November am 2025

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wojciech Zdanowicz', is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman of the EMSA Administrative Board

Done at Lisbon, 13 November 2025

List of participants

73rd Meeting of the Administrative Board, Lisbon, 16 and 17 June 2025

MEMBER STATES	
BELGIUM	
Peter Clayessens	Board Member
BULGARIA	
Ventsislav Ivanov	Board Member
CROATIA	
Toni Maričević	Alternate Member
CYPRUS	
Ioannis Efstratiou	Board Member
CZECH REPUBLIC	
Evzen Vydra	Board Member
ESTONIA	
Kristjan Truu	Board Member
FINLAND	
Sanna Sonninen	Board Member
Mikko Hirvi	Expert
FRANCE	
Eric Banel	Board Member – Chairman of the Administrative and Finance Committee
Pauline Hermand	Expert
Geoffrey Babalut	Expert
GERMANY	
Sebastian Gastes	Alternate Member
GREECE	
Andreas Spanos	Board Member
HUNGARY	

Csaba Bellyei	Board Member
IRELAND	
Noelle Waldron	Alternate Member
Micheà O'Toole	Expert
ITALY	
Enrico Castioni	Board Member
Elisa Baglivo	Expert
Vittorio Vanacore	Expert
LATVIA	
Jānis Krastiņš	Board Member
LITHUANIA	
Linas Kasparavičius	Board Member
LUXEMBOURG	
Marc Siuda	Alternate Member
MALTA	
David Bugeja	Board Member
NETHERLANDS	
Jeroen Witter	Alternate Member
POLAND	
Wojciech Zdanowicz	Board Member - Chairman of the EMSA Administrative Board
Sonia Knobloch-Sieradzkaa	Alternate Member
PORTUGAL	
Paolo Pamplona	Alternate Member
ROMANIA	
Razvan-Gabriel Trafandir	Board Member
SLOVENIA	
Jadran Klinec	Board Member
SPAIN	

Ana Núñez Velasco	Board Member
Javier Fernandez Abad	Alternate Member
Gustavo Santana Hernández	Expert
SWEDEN	
Pernilla Wallin	Board Member
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	
Anne Montagnon	Board Member
Fotini Ioannidou	Board Member
Andrei Mungiu	Alternate Member
Cristina Cuadra Garcia	Alternate Member
Isabel Baez	Expert
Kristel Jurado	Expert
ESA – EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY	
Valgerdur Gudmundsdottir	Board Member
Lemonia Tsaroucha	Alternate Member
EFTA STATES	
ICELAND	
Jon Gunnar Jonsson	Board Member
NORWAY	
Per Jan Osdal	Expert
PROFESSIONAL SECTOR	
Henrik Ringbom	Board Member
EMSA	
Maja Markovčić Kostelac	Executive Director
Manuela Tomassini	Head of Department 1, Sustainability & Technical Assistance
Peter Kirov	Head of Department 2, Safety, Security & Surveillance
Leendert Bal	Head of Department 3, Digital Services & Simplification
Dominika Łempicka-Fichter	Head of Department 4, Corporate Services

Andrea Tassoni	Head of Unit Executive Office, Board Secretariat
Frédéric Hébert	Head of Unit 1.1
Mario Mifsud	Head of Unit 1.2
Georgios Christofi	Head of Unit 1.3
Santiago Encabo	Head of Unit 2.1
Pedro Lourenço	Head of Unit 2.2
Lazaros Aichmalotidis	Head of Unit 3.1
Lukša Čičovački	Head of Unit 3.2
Ivo Kupsky	Head of Unit 3.3
Cristina Romay-Lopez	Head of Unit 4.1
Andrea Iber	Head of Unit 4.2
Tom Van Hees	Internal Control Coordinator
Katalin Duarte	Accountant
Marco Ingrosso	Budget and Finance Specialist – Planning and Monitoring
Soraya Obura	Senior Assistant for Planning and Reporting – Planning and Monitoring
Selena Matić	Senior Administrative Assistant – Planning and Monitoring