

ANTONIO TAJANI VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION VISITS EMSA



Antonio Tajani (right), Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for transport policy and EMSA Executive Director Willem de Ruiter.

Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for transport policy, visited EMSA on 29 September 2008. The Executive Director of EMSA, in welcoming the Vice-President, outlined briefly the tasks performed by the Agency. The network of stand-by oil recovery vessels and CleanSeaNet to detect illegal discharges were illustrated to the Vice-President as concrete examples of the services developed by the Agency for the European Commission and the Member States. The Executive Director illustrated briefly the challenges that the Agency is facing, in particular in the field of traffic monitoring and for the development of the EU LRIT Data Centre. The visit represented a first opportunity to exchange views on the present and the future of the Agency. The Vice-President recalled that maritime safety represents a priority of the Commission and of his specific mandate, and thanked EMSA very warmly for the contribution in building up the European project, focussing on activities with added value for the European citizens. He outlined that the role of the Agency should be strengthened in the future, and reminded the possible contribution of projects such as SafeSeaNet for the development of the Motorways of the Sea.

NEW VESSELS IN MEDITERRANEAN

The EMSA network of stand-by oil spill recovery vessels has recently been further strengthened in the Mediterranean area with the entry into operational service of 3 new vessels. Following a preparation period for pre-fitting, crew training, equipment installation and system testing during the summer, the vessels are now available to assist Member

States that request assistance with the response to marine pollution incidents. Two of the three vessels form a 'mini-pool.' These are the *Bahia I* and the *Bahia III*, which are owned and operated by the shipping company Mureloil, and operate as bunker vessels based out of Algeciras, southern Spain. The primary ship, the *Bahia III*, was built in 2007, has just entered into commercial service and comes with a storage capacity of 7,500 m³. The Aktea OSRV is an oil tanker with a tank capacity of 3,000 m³. Operating out of Piraeus, it has the oil pollution response equipment permanently stored on board. It is owned by Environmental Protection Engineering (EPE), which already operates a fleet of dedicated spill response vessels. Additional vessels contracted by EMSA are currently in their preparation phase. Further information is available at:

www.emsa.europa.eu



The EMSA contracted vessel Aktea OSRV.

EMSA HOSTS ECSA MEETING



Exchanging views with European shipowners association.

On 11 September, EMSA hosted the bi-annual meeting of the Safety and Environment Committee of the European Community Shipowners Association (ECSA) in Lisbon. Committee chairman, Terje Gloersen, stated that those present (including representatives of Intertanko and ICS) particularly wanted to learn more about developments relating to long range identification and tracking (LRIT); the new EU LRIT Data Centre; the SafeSeaNet ship monitoring system and the Equasis

shipping information system, together with the implications for ship owners. Mr Gloersen also said that European shipowners were looking forward to the set-up of "one stop reporting."

CROATIA IS LATEST CLEANSEANET USER



EMSA/Croatian staff at CleanSeaNet training session.

Croatia has just become an official user of the European CleanSeaNet oil pollution monitoring service. This fact was celebrated at a CleanSeaNet Info Day in Zagreb on 8 September, with the participation of Branko Bačić, Croatian Secretary of State for Sea, Vincent Degert, Head of the European Commission delegation to the Republic of Croatia and Leendert Bal, acting head of the EMSA Operations Department. Following this event, 23 Croatian staff members attended a two day CleanSeaNet training session.

CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES HIGH ON SEPTEMBER AGENDA



Willem de Ruiter, EMSA Executive Director and Dr Oh Kong-Gyun, IACS chairman.

The subject of classification societies was prominent on the EMSA agenda this month. On 22 September, EMSA Executive Director Willem de Ruiter welcomed Dr Oh Kong-Gyun, chairman of the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS) for discussions on classification issues and developments and on 18 September, Willem de Ruiter attended and presented the Agency at the DNV Management Conference in Monaco.

TRAITÉ DE ROME COMES TO LISBON



On 7/8 August, the sailing yacht *Traité de Rome* visited Lisbon during part of its tour of Europe to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome and the European Institutions. The crew members paid a visit to EMSA and presented the mission of the *Traité de Rome* and their experience to the staff and, in turn, learned about the Agency's work and activities.

EMSA STAFF MEMBER RECEIVED AWARD



On 14 July (Bastille Day) at the Rouen Armada Tall Ships Festival, Béatrice Comby was made a Chevalier du Mérite Maritime, which is a French national award given for outstanding services in the maritime field. Before joining EMSA as Project Officer for the Development and Production of Maritime Statistical Information in 2005 she worked in the French Maritime Administration and previously for the EU statistical office Eurostat.

Current EMSA open calls to tender can be seen at:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/end182.html>

Current EMSA vacancies can be seen at:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/end179d006.html>

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