

EMSA AND ECDC ISSUE GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CHALLENGES

On 27 July, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) published a joint guidance to facilitate the gradual restart of cruise ship operations, seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance follows a goal-based approach and identifies measures to be taken on ship and ashore addressing health-related issues for passengers, crews as well as the visited communities in order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Planning and coordination between all parties involved will be crucial. "The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the cruise industry to a halt. Before passengers consider returning to this type of holiday, they need to be reassured of the highest safety standards, as need to be those cities receiving them during their journey", said the Commissioner for Transport, Adina Vălean, adding also that "the EMSA-ECDC guidance provides concrete recommendations to ship operators and port authorities which should be implemented before cruises set sail again. I recall the ultimate responsibility of cruise operators for their passengers and crews, and invite them to implement today's guidance, while working closely with port authorities for the safe resumption of their services". For the EMSA Executive Director, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, and ECDC Director Andrea Ammon, this joint guidance on resumption of cruise ship operations in Europe "is another example of added value for the EU citizens by building on synergies between EU agencies". Both directors highlighted that "the cooperation of the main parties involved - from cruise companies to port authorities - is essential to restart cruise operations and to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is important at this stage to facilitate the gradual recovery of this segment of the maritime sector by building trust in all stakeholders involved through the implementation of the highest safety standards". Read the full guidance [here](#).

EMSA PUBLISHES WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 IMPACT ON SHIPPING

The COVID-19 outbreak is affecting the lives and work of people in the EU and all across the globe. Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the Commission, the member states and the shipping industry have been taking measures to ensure the continuity of operations and thus the security of supply. The situation is evolving day by day and the effects could be long-term. What shipping will look like post COVID-19 is unclear, however EMSA has the necessary data and tools to analyse the impact of the pandemic on certain shipping activities by analysing vessel traffic data and providing reliable figures to assist in the definition of the recovery policies and specific measures. These figures should assist all parties involved (EU, maritime administrations and shipping industry) in determining a recovery strategy to overcome the economic crisis that Europe is facing. The objective of the report is to provide figures on the impact of COVID-19 on shipping traffic. It is based on solid vessel movements statistics showing the port call trends without interpreting the statistical data. The report could not serve the purpose of an economic impact analysis since the trade volumes are not available in the EMSA systems. The report focuses mainly on EU ports and EU flagged ships, but there are also statistics about the shipping routes from Europe to China and from Europe to the US and how they have been affected. The report is updated on a weekly basis and is published every Friday at the [EMSA's website](#).



ANNUAL REVIEW OFFERING INSIGHT INTO THE SEAFARER LABOUR MARKET IN THE EU IS NOW AVAILABLE

On 24 July, EMSA published its **fifth annual review** on Seafarers' Statistics in the EU. Likewise, in previous years, the review offers an insight into the European labour market in terms of the number of seafarers holding valid certificates and endorsements in 2018 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, EFTA countries and the European Commission. Additionally, ship owners, ship operators, crew managers and ship managers may benefit as they can gain awareness of the full magnitude of the potential manpower available in the EU to crew their vessels. The information is also considered useful for maritime education and training institutions in the EU and elsewhere, 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.

EMSA'S OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSELS PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATIONAL EXERCISE BREEZE 2020

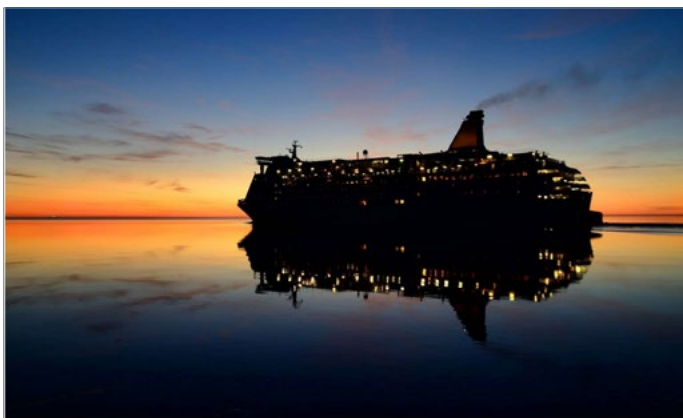
On 17 July, EMSA participated in the operational exercise Breeze 2020, organised by the Bulgarian Navy in conjunction with the Maritime Administration. The Agency mobilised for the exercise two stand-by oil spill recovery vessels in the Black Sea: Galaxy Eco, based in Varna, Bulgaria, and Amalthia, based in Constanta, Romania. The vessels simulated oil spill recovery under different operational configurations with the sweeping arms, booms and skimmer. During this exercise, the vessel Galaxy Eco demonstrated at-sea dispersant spraying capabilities. In addition, one lightweight RPAS with a pilot was also provided for the exercise. It streamed a live video signal to the VIP vessel, where the President of Bulgaria was observing the exercise activities. EMSA also mobilised for Breeze 2020 one inflatable storage barge from its Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) stockpile in Ravenna, Italy, that was deployed at sea by the organisers.



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VACANCIES: National Experts in Professional Training Autumn 2020 (31/8/2020)

PROCUREMENT: Provision of Testing and Quality Assurance Services Related to EMSA Maritime Applications (7/9/2020); Consultancy services for EMSA ICT Service desk (7/9/2020). See website for more.



COVID-19: EU Guidance for Cruise Ship Operations

EMSA'S RPAS SERVICES: WHERE WE ARE FLYING

EMSA's Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) services are now fully operational with flights resuming in late May after the interruption due to the COVID-19 outbreak. During the month of July, several services were carried out with different purposes, such as fisheries control or emissions monitoring on request by maritime authorities from Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Italy and Bulgaria, as well as the European Fisheries Control Agency. Check this [infographic](#) to find out the details of these operations.

