

## MAJOR INTERNATIONAL GATHERING SET ON BOLSTERING SEAFARER RIGHTS TO DECENT WORKING CONDITIONS

EMSA has hosted an International Workshop on the Maritime Labour Convention to give governments, shipowners and seafarers the opportunity to look at how the MLC has been functioning in practice and to encourage further ratification and full implementation. The workshop, held on 18-20 February, was a joint initiative by EMSA, the European Commission, the International Maritime Organisation and the International Labour Organisation. The 113 participants included ILO and IMO government representatives dealing with compliance and enforcement as well as social partners. Following the welcome addresses, there was a series of presentations and panel discussions aimed at raising awareness of the importance of global ratification and consistent implementation by countries in their various capacities as flag, port and labour supplying states. There was an exchange of views on the role of social partners which highlighted just how essential cooperation is to the improvement of seafarer working conditions. The workshop also underlined the challenges faced in the implementation of the MLC and gave visibility to good practices and cooperation initiatives, particularly in the field of capacity building.



## AMBASSADORS OF EU COUNTRIES TO PORTUGAL INVITED TO VISIT EMSA

On 13 February, 18 ambassadors to Portugal visited EMSA's premises in Lisbon at the invitation of the Agency's Executive Director. This was the opportunity for the ambassadors to hear more about EMSA's mission, particularly following the recently adopted five-year strategy. EMSA has a number of strategic objectives which are clustered into five priority areas (sustainability, safety, security, simplification and surveillance) which it will work towards until the end of 2024. Overall, these objectives aim to develop a safe, secure, green and competitive maritime sector. EU member state authorities are major stakeholders for EMSA and maintaining dialogue with them is very important on many levels.



## EMSA PARTICIPATES IN DISCUSSION PANEL AT EUROPEAN SHIPPING WEEK

EMSA's Executive Director was invited by the European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) to participate on 20 February in a panel on the topic of Safe and Social Shipping, held during the third edition of European Shipping Week in Brussels. This high profile event was an opportunity for EU decision-makers to become acquainted with the shipping industry and discover its vital importance for the European economy and society. It also offered the opportunity for policy-makers and industry to discuss the future of the EU's policy framework for shipping. During the week, various challenges and opportunities were addressed including climate change and decarbonisation, the global competitiveness of the European shipping industry, the fast pace of change brought about by digitalisation and innovation, as well as social aspects such as the promotion of diversity and gender equality.



## TRAINING UP INSPECTORS TO ENSURE A BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MLC

A training session was held in EMSA on 5-6 February for inspectors responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention. The session gathered 34 participants from the beneficiary countries of the two European Neighbourhood Policy projects run by EMSA (BCSEA and Safemed). The course covered: fundamental seafarer rights and challenges; the structure of the MLC; a simulated inspection covering all stages such as preparation for inspection, checking MLC related documents and inspecting the living and working conditions on board. The course also looked at more detailed inspection issues including detentions and rectification plans, guidance on how to deal with on-shore complaints, and how to report inspections. Many beneficiary countries still have not ratified the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 and the training session contributed to a greater understanding of the specifics and challenges of ratification and subsequent implementation processes.

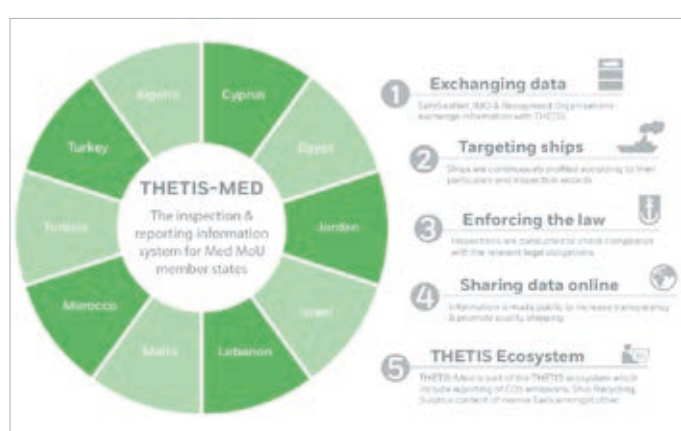
## WORKSHOP OF THE JOINT EUROPEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTION FORUM TARGETS INFORMATION SHARING AND DATA SECURITY

As part of the [European Coast Guard Function Forum](#) annual programme, EMSA co-organised the first workshop of the year under the French ECGFF Chairmanship in Lisbon on 11-12 February. With 120 participants representing 21 coastal states, 10 EU agencies/institutions as well as three Commission Directorate-Generals, this was one of the largest events of its kind. Each coastal state was invited to participate with stakeholders from the fields of maritime safety, fisheries control and border control. The main themes of the workshop were threefold. Firstly, to inform the participants about the various platforms/tools/services regarding maritime information that are currently available through different agencies. This illustrated how the services are already dependent on each other as well as how they could be further exploited in the future. Secondly, to raise awareness of the need to support cybersecurity activities in a complex and evolving environment. Thirdly, to highlight some of the newer technologies available to coastal authorities in the field of maritime surveillance.



## TRAINING ON THE NEW THETIS-MED INSPECTION SUPPORT TOOL

EMSA has been active in providing training on the new THETIS-Med inspection support tool for all Mediterranean MoU member countries. The tool has been up and running since 1 February. The training is designed to ensure a smooth transition by giving Port State Control Officers an overview of the system and its key features and functionalities. The activities organised also serve to strengthen cooperation and encourage partnerships between the maritime administrations of the beneficiary countries and EMSA. So far, three training sessions has been held: 5-6 February in Izmir (Turkey); 14-15 February in Lisbon; and, 25-26 February 2020 in Haifa (Israel).



## PROGRESS CONTINUES ON THE COMMON INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT

The third CISE Stakeholder Group meeting of the transitional phase of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) took place on 13 February, bringing together members to discuss the activities of the transitional phase and its development. Participants were also updated on the back-to-back workshop of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) on 11-12 February, where CISE had been the focus of one of the thematic sessions. The participants, which have increased in number, represented a total of 15 EU/EEA member states coming from different maritime surveillance sectors, the European Commission (DG MARE), EDA, EEAS, EFCA, EMSA, JRC, Frontex and SatCen. EU agencies and services provided status reports for their plans and implementation of the CISE network.



## EMSA EXPANDS ITIL PROCESSES BY ADOPTING NEW ELECTRONIC SET-UP

EMSA adopted the ITIL Information Technology Infrastructure Library back in 2011 and has been using ITIL's detailed practices to ensure a coordinated and harmonised approach to the provision of ICT services. ITIL's set of detailed practices are designed to align IT services with business needs. In 2019 EMSA's ICT Steering Group decided to support the introduction of a fully integrated and consolidated solution, involving the implementation of the ITIL framework throughout the whole of EMSA - covering service strategy, design, transition and operation. The new electronic set-up has been tested and is scheduled to be operational by the end of March 2020. It will be shared by all relevant EMSA staff, end-users and contractors. The new set-up will enhance current EMSA ITIL procedures and reduce the time dedicated to the delivery cycle, improve the management of business requirements, requests for changes, release validation and deployment, documentation and reporting.

### [emsa.europa.eu](https://emsa.europa.eu)

**VACANCIES:** Senior Communication Officer (9/3/2020); Policy Adviser - International and Interinstitutional Relations (9/3/2020)

**PROCUREMENT:** Study to support the amendment of the 'Guidelines for brief sampling of anti-fouling systems on ships' to include controls on Cybutryne (20/3/2020). See website for more.