

COMMISSION TAKES STEPS TOWARDS MORE SUSTAINABLE SHIPPING

A group of experts on maritime transport sustainability is in the process of being set up in an effort to address environmental challenges in the shipping sector particularly regarding sulphur emissions. The European Sustainable Shipping Forum will bring together around 60 members from member state maritime transport authorities and public and private organisations active in this field. The forum will help take forward the [Sustainable Waterborne Transport Toolbox](#) and thereby support the implementation of the recent sulphur directive (0.1% sulphur in fuel as of 1 January 2015 for ships sailing in the EU Sulphur Emission Control Areas - Baltic and North Sea). While the meetings are expected to be held on Commission premises, EMSA will be assisting the Commission in its tasks. Experts can apply for the European Sustainable Shipping Forum until 18 October via the [Commission's website](#).

MAKING INFORMED CHOICES ON THE USE OF DISPERSANTS TO TREAT OIL SPILLS



DUET offers a valuable source of advice for dispersant use

Following the recent upgrade to the Dispersant Usage Evaluation Tool (DUET), 17 participants from across the EU attended a training session on 17-18 September. [DUET](#) is the result of a tender launched by EMSA in 2008 and contains a software programme that provides a numeric model to simulate oil spills and dispersant applications. The model estimates the trajectory and fate of the oil, including water concentrations of naturally - and chemically - dispersed oil and dissolved hydrocarbons, as well as the surface area impacted by floating oil. These measures may be compared for scenarios with and without dispersant use, in such a way that informed guidance may be provided to decision-makers. DUET, if not an emergency response tool itself, is intended for contingency planning in member states. Several countries have included it in their contingency plan and EMSA has used it on several occasions during exercises.

EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE RULES IN FAVOUR OF EMSA



On 16 September the European Court of Justice [ruled in favour of EMSA](#) in a case brought against it by the French shipbuilding company, Ecocéane. The company decided to sue EMSA following the rejection of its bid for tender EMSA/NEG/1/2009 on the contracting of a stand-by oil spill response vessel. Ecocéane was ordered to pay EMSA's legal costs.

SAMPLING THE RIVER TEJO



EMSA recently hosted ballast water experts from EU member countries during its training programme on ballast water sampling. The course covered the latest sampling and analysis techniques for testing ballast water discharges as well as the enforcement of the IMO

[Ballast Water Management Convention](#). Many new pieces of equipment were presented for indicative and detailed analysis – from microscopy to fluorometry. Training on different sampling techniques was also provided using the River Tejo as a source of "ballast water".

EMSA ROLLS UP ITS SLEEVES FOR TEAM BUILDING DAY



This year EMSA decided to embark on a venture of a different kind – revamping a portion of Lisbon's largest wooded area, Monsanto park. Staff planted trees and gardens, built picnic tables and benches, and inaugurated the newly created Parque Europa. In the afternoon, staff divided into several groups to discover the flora, fauna and history of the area. At the end of the day, EMSA was able to give something back to the local community and leave a lasting contribution to the green heart of Lisbon.

ON THE WEBSITE

Procurement: MSS video wall and maintenance service (deadline: 28/10/2013)