

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Response to accidental or deliberate marine pollution

#### 11.1 General Information

11.1.1 EU can support BONN Agreement countries in preparedness and response to marine pollution mainly through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (the Union Mechanism) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

11.1.2 The Union Mechanism aims to strengthen the cooperation between the Union and the Participating States<sup>1</sup> and to facilitate coordination in order to improve the effectiveness of systems for preventing, preparing for and responding to disasters. It covers both civil protection and marine pollution emergencies inside and outside the EU. Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) is the operational hub of the Union Mechanism. The centre is operated by DG ECHO of the European Commission and accessible 24 hours a day.

#### 11.2 EU support in marine pollution emergencies

11.2.1 Upon request for assistance from a country affected by a marine pollution incident, the ERCC can quickly coordinate the mobilisation of pollution response capacity and expertise from the Participating States and EMSA and facilitate their deployment to the affected area. More information on the Union Mechanism and its tools can be found at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/disaster\\_response/mechanism\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/policies/disaster_response/mechanism_en.htm)

11.2.2 The European Maritime Safety Agency offers four main marine pollution response services, available upon request, to EU Member States, coastal European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Contracting Parties, EU Candidate Countries, and the European Commission, namely:

- With respect to accidental oil spills, the Agency has established a Network of Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels around Europe, with state of the art equipment and large storage capacity, providing a European tier of operational resources to support the pollution response mechanisms of the affected coastal State in case of pollution caused by ships as well as by oil and gas installations.
- In order to detect ship borne oil pollutions at sea, EMSA developed the CleanSeaNet (CSN) near real time satellite-based oil spill monitoring and vessel detection service.
- The “MAR-ICE Network” (Marine Intervention in Chemical Emergencies Network) of chemical experts to support EU coastal States in responding to chemical/HNS spills at sea by providing information on chemical substances.
- EMSA can also make available pollution response experts to provide (on-site / office-based) operational and technical assistance for oil and HNS incidents.

More information on the EMSA Pollution Detection and Response Services can be found at:

<http://emsa.europa.eu/operations.html>

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<sup>1</sup> EU 28, Norway and Iceland.

### 11.3 Procedure to request assistance

11.3.1 All requests for EMSA's marine pollution response services or for the assistance through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (reaching all its Participating States) should be sent to the ERCC at the European Commission preferably through the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS)<sup>2</sup>. Alternatively the request can be sent to the ERCC by email or fax.

#### ***Request for EMSA Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels***

11.3.2 Detailed procedures to request assistance of EMSA contracted vessels is provided in “EMSA Network of Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels - User Guide” distributed to coastal States through the members of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Response Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR) and available in the password protected Vessel User Group (VUG) section of the EMSA website.

11.3.3 Description of available vessels, their equipment and performance can be found in CECIS resources database and on EMSA website:

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/operations/network-of-stand-by-oil-spill-response-vessels.html>

#### ***Request for CleanSeaNet (CSN) satellite images***

11.3.4 Detailed information on the EMSA CSN satellite-based services can be found at:

<http://emsa.europa.eu/operations/cleanseanet.html>

#### ***Request for MAR-ICE (HNS emergencies)***

11.3.5 Information regarding the “MAR-ICE Network” service can be found at:

<http://emsa.europa.eu/operations/hns-pollution.html>

### 11.4 Contact Points

#### **Emergencies (24/7)**

<p><b>European Commission</b>            Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)  <b>Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)</b>            Rue de la Loi 86            B-1049 Brussels            Belgium  <b>Duty Officer GSM:</b> +32-2-29 21112  <b>Duty Officer Fax:</b> +32-2-29 86651  <b>Duty Officer E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:ECHO-ERCC@ec.europa.eu">ECHO-ERCC@ec.europa.eu</a></p>	<p><b>European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)</b>            Praça Europa Nº4            Cais do Sodré            1249-206 Lisbon            PORTUGAL  <b>Maritime Support Services (MSS)</b>  <b>Duty Officer Tel:</b> +351 21 1209 415  <b>Duty Officer Fax:</b> +351 21 1209 480  <b>Duty Officer E-mail:</b>  <a href="mailto:MaritimeSupportServices@emsa.europa.eu">MaritimeSupportServices@emsa.europa.eu</a></p>
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#### **Enquiries (office hrs)**

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<sup>2</sup> CECIS is a secure web-based application to facilitate emergency communication among its users. It also contains a database of Member States and EMSA operational response capabilities.