

CESMA VISIT TO EMSA

April 20, 2023 in Lisbon

CESMA, represented by Capt. Dimitrov, President, and Capt. Ardillon, Secretary General, visited European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon on 20th April 2023.

EMSA Executive Director, Mrs Maja Markovcic Kostelac, was accompanied by Mrs Manuela Tomassini, Head of Department Sustainability & Technical Assistance, Mr Leendert Bal, Head of Department Safety, Security & Surveillance, Mr Ioannis Mispinas, Head of Unit Safety & Security and Mrs Radina Russeva, Policy Adviser.



We had a friendly meeting for one hour, Mrs Markovcic being busy all the day with several organizations asking for a rendez-vous.

First there were few words from Mrs Markovcic about EMSA history and subjects that EMSA is involved in study. With more that 270 employees from all EU countries and budget of more than 89 mln. euro in 2023 plus some additional projects EMSA is strong enough to be in the European and worldwide forefront of regulating maritime safety, security and protection of environment. The latest activities in protecting European water EMSA charts any time 16 vessels to ensure spill response and protection of marine environment. The agency is collecting the data about safety of navigation and it is issuing safety reports every three years available on EMSA web site (<https://emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/4830-safety-analysis-of-emc-ip-data-analysis-of-navigation-accidents.html>). A study on COVID 19 impact on shipping and crew on board ships had been made in member states. The main future activities are split among safety issues as well as human element in shipping, digital transformation and e-certification of EU flagged ships.

Amongst points of interest, in which CESMA could also have a role to play, are:

- How to motivate EU youngsters to come on merchant vessels, which means to embrace a career not for few months (or even few years) but for a longer period than the actual one, at it seems the middle age to finish a career at sea is around 35 years old.
- Human element, which is related to above motivation and to fatigue factor on vessels. Human factor is at the base of some 80% of incidents on vessels, but the studies of such incidents stop generally at “due to human factor” cause, not exploring deeper in order to understand what created this “human factor”. It could come from education and/or experience of course, but also and maybe more important from fatigue, related to work/rest hours – vibrations – heat – noises, etc.
- Maritime Single Window. It is under process and working well where in use, even if there is still a problem with States and/or even Ports Authorities who add papers requirements above what is scheduled by MSW.
- Green fuels. Things are moving, maybe too fast. We have now a small experience on the carriage, loading /discharging of such fuels, when shipped as cargoes. But we should have new education projects and courses developed, as well as to create new procedures for bunkering, using such products as fuels in the engine rooms, procedures which should include all the safety aspects to take in account . However time is needed to collect all necessary data, and even some experience feedbacks in order to go forward on the subject.

Capt. Dimitrov proposed that CESMA could share the knowledge from European experienced Captains on these points of interest, knowledge which could be collected by our Members, and so coming from different policies used under different Flags and Administrations. Also CESMA could, as expert, participate to EU projects to improve safety, maritime spatial planning and ship and port security.

At the end of the meeting, we planned to meet every two year, following of course the actual situation.

Capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, President

Capt. Hubert Ardillon, Secretary General

CESMA VISIT SINCOMAR April 20, 2023 in Lisbon

CESMA, represented by Capt. Dimitrov, President, and Capt. Ardillon, Secretary General, took the opportunity of the visit to EMSA to meet also our Portuguese colleagues of SINCOMAR (Sindicato de Capitaes e Officiais da Marinha Mercante) in Lisbon on 20th April 2023.

We were welcome by Capt. Jose Teixeira, President, with two Board Members, in their office on the port of Lisbon. After presentations of persons as we had never a chance to meet before, and speaking about their office and the next AGA scheduled in Varna, we had a very friendly dinner near the Lisbon Bridge. The office of SINCOMAR is in excellent location and with good opportunities to host CESMA Council Meeting and AGA and we discussed CESMA AGA in 2025 to be organized in Lisbon, Portugal subject to further confirmation from both SINCOMAR and CESMA Board. During the conversations had been shared ideas of future cooperation with EMSA and especially captians to render their experience when making proposals to change safety regulations. Capt. Teixeira explained their absence during CESMA AGA's with the fact that they are organization of moderate size and they could not afford to travel abroad due to financial reasons. But He assured us that they are following what CESMA is doing and they are fully in support of our activities. We hope all to be able to meet again in one occasion when visiting EMSA.

Capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, President

Capt. Hubert Ardillon, Secretary General