

MEMBER ALERT



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THE EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY'S MARITIME ACCIDENT REVIEW FOR 2010

Members may be interested in seeing the 'Maritime Accident Review' published by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), covering the Agency's experience for 2010. It is available for downloading at the link below.

While the Agency has noted a decrease in major maritime accidents for almost a decade, and while their severity has substantially reduced in recent years, it notes that, in 2010, both the number of ships involved in accidents (644 vessels involved in 559 accidents) and the number of lives lost (61 seafarers), show increases over the figures for 2009. However, EMSA suggests that the small increase in the number of accidents might be linked to the economic upturn in 2010, and a corresponding increase in maritime traffic.

As regards maritime pollution incidents, EMSA reports a decreasing trend. It suggests that *CleanSeaNet*, its satellite-based oil spill detection system, may have had a deterrent effect on illicit behaviors. Moreover, there was an overall reduction in the number of oil spills reported during 2010, as well as a reduction in the estimated total amount of oil spilled.

According to EMSA's report, the majority (63%) of the vessels involved in accidents in and around EU waters were registered in EU countries, while some 37% flew non-EU flags.

EMSA also suggests that increasing ship sizes imply a potential for more severe consequences of future accidents, as to both loss of life and pollution. Against this background, it calls for the uniform application of EU maritime safety and environmental legislation.

This report can be downloaded from the following website:

http://www.emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=items&cid=19&id=1219.