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INFORMATION NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council
- Information note by the Commission

Delegations will find annexed a note by the Commission on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "Any Other Business" at the meeting of the Council (Transport, Telecommunications and Energy) on 2 December 2010.
Information note from the Commission


The Commission proposes to maintain EMSA’s current tasks and institutional structure, ensuring continuity for the Agency’s activities which provide added value at EU-level and are well appreciated by the stakeholders. The proposal for a limited extension of EMSA's tasks reflects new needs. EMSA’s updated mandate would:

- clarify that the Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels under contract by EMSA can intervene also in case of oil pollution caused by offshore installations;
- increase EMSA's involvement in EU research (analysis of research projects and identification of research priorities);
- extend EMSA's technical assistance to all European Neighbourhood Policy countries in order to promote the EU maritime safety policy in all the regional seas bordering the EU;
- emphasise the role of EMSA's operational vessel traffic monitoring services as basis for extended transport and maritime information services, including in the context of the development of a Common Information Sharing Environment for the EU maritime domain;
- extend EMSA’s assistance in the development and implementation of EU policies, such as Motorways of the Sea, e-maritime as well as environmental aspects of shipping including climate change.

To conclude, given the limited nature of the modifications proposed, the Commission hopes that a swift adoption of the proposal will be possible.