

STOP PRESS ADVICE

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THE SPANISH MARITIME SALVAGE AGENCY UNDER THE COMPETENCE OF NEW SPANISH MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AND MARITIME ENVIRONMENT

Re-elected President José Rodríguez Zapatero has constituted a new Government. In this respect, the Royal Decree 432/2008 was published in the Spanish National Bulletin num. 90 dated 14.04.08.

As concerns the maritime sector, it is important to note that the Ministry of Development, which continues to be directed by Mrs Magdalena Alvarez; remains with the competences regarding the maritime transports.

However, this ministry will no longer have the competence of the matters concerning the **protection of the maritime environment** which have been designated to the new **Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Maritime Environment**, directed by Mrs Elena Espinosa.

The new **Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Maritime Environment**, will be the ministry in charge of proposing and executing the Government's politics in matters related to the protection of biodiversity and seas, water and development of fishing resources, amongst others.

The direct consequence of these changes is that the **Spanish Maritime Salvage Agency (SASEMAR)** is transferred under the direction of the **Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Maritime Environment**.

The functions of SASEMAR are, according to our Ports Law of 1992 (Art. 90), the public service of rescue of human life at sea and the prevention and fight against the maritime pollution, amongst others.

As changes are to come, it is important to note that the execution and development of this re-organization in respect of the competences of SASEMAR should be followed up, and also to see if there would exist any contradiction with our Spanish Ports Law of 1992, as the Director of the General Directorate of Merchant Marine (under the competences of the Ministry of Development) is also the President of SASEMAR (now under the competence of the Ministry of Environment, and Rural and Maritime Environment).