



**Summary report of the
10th meeting of the Maritime Working Group
SAFEMED III project - EuroMed Cooperation on Maritime
Safety and Prevention of Pollution from Ships**

Lisbon, 11 September 2013

The 10th meeting of the Maritime Working Group (Euro-Mediterranean Transport Cooperation under the auspices of the co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean) took place on 11th September 2013 at the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) premises in Lisbon.

The meeting was attended by seven beneficiary countries of the SAFEMED III project as well as by a total of ten EU Member States' representatives. The agenda for the day was divided in two parts: in the morning the presentation of the MEDAMOS project's results took place, while the second part was devoted to presentations and discussions on the SAFEMED III project.

The co-chairwoman of the meeting, Ms Lola Fadina, Policy Officer, representing DG MOVE, welcomed the participants and acknowledged the importance of the SAFEMED III project and the EMSA's role as implementing body for this project.

Mr Bruno Macedo, Regional Transport Programme Manager, from DG DEVCO, and Mr Giancarlo Crivellaro, Policy Officer from DG MOVE, acknowledged that the project was in line with the objectives set under the "Union for the Mediterranean" which would be reaffirmed during the Ministerial Conference on Transport to be held in Brussels on 14th November 2013.

Mr Andrea Tassoni, EMSA's Policy Advisor, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the involvement of EU Member States in the implementation of this project.

Mr Giuseppe Russo, EMSA's Senior Project Officer for training and cooperation, welcomed the participants and introduced the general framework of the SAFEMED III project including its timetable that runs from June 2013 for an overall duration of 36 months. The project aims at providing technical assistance on maritime safety, security and marine pollution prevention, preparedness and response to Algeria, Egypt, , Israel,

Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. Syria is also a beneficiary country of this project but cooperation with it is currently frozen because of the general suspension of bilateral cooperation programmes between the EU and the Syrian government under the MEDA/ENPI instruments since May 2011.

Mr Russo further detailed the project's objectives as well as the actions and technical activities to be undertaken, and stressed the necessity of mutual cooperation for the achievement of these goals.

In line with the previous SAFEMED projects, this third one aims to provide support to the SAFEMED III beneficiary countries in the following fields covering maritime safety, security and environmental aspects:

1. Flag State Implementation
2. Port State Control
3. Vessel traffic monitoring and information systems (VTMIS)
4. Protection of the marine environment
5. Human element
6. Security of ships and port facilities in the Mediterranean Area
7. Bilateral actions
8. Communication and organisation of the Euromed maritime Affairs working group

Mr Russo highlighted the importance of conveying the relevant information to the SAFEMED III team in order to identify the countries needs and expectations from the project and specifically emphasized the budget allocated to the specific priorities of each country under Activity 7 "Bilateral actions".

He also introduced the results already achieved at this early stage of the project, namely the Overview of the SAFEMED Beneficiaries Maritime Administrations (to be updated by the beneficiary countries on a later stage) as well as the template format of the Inventory of Marine Pollution at-sea response Policies and Resources Available to be filled in by SAFEMED III beneficiary countries. He presented a planning of the sessions and seminars to take place in this and upcoming years.

Ms Anastasiya Kozubovskaya-Pellé, Project Officer for SAFEMED III at EMSA, introduced project's visibility and coordination issues, underlining the necessity to ensure the consistency with the other relevant maritime EU and IMO actions and where possible and relevant to develop synergies with other bilateral or regional initiatives aiming at the same goals. She also explained the main communication means to be used during the project.

The participants visited EMSA's Maritime Support Services (MSS) Operations Centre. During this visit they were informed about the services provided by the MSS and were showed the achievements of the EU in the field of traffic monitoring through sharing of information.

During the meeting some of the EU Member States' participants, namely, France, Germany and Italy indicated that they could potentially provide

support to the beneficiary countries in some of the fields identified in the project, notably training courses or participation to ship inspections.

The SAFEMED III beneficiary countries warmly welcomed the launching of the project and in a first "tour de table" expressed the actions at regional and national level that they would like to achieve in the framework of SAFEMED III project.

Israel highlighted the importance of associating beneficiary countries with EU member states in projects of data sharing in the field of maritime traffic monitoring.

Jordan explained that following a voluntary IMO Flag State Audit to be conducted early 2014 more information regarding needs will be available. It asked if the assistance on VIMSAS was still available and would be followed within SAFEMED III project.

Lebanon asked for assistance on how to implement the Maritime Labour Convention Standard 4.5 regarding social security. It also stressed the need of building a new infrastructure for the national VTMS system. Information about the EU recognition process of the seafarers training system of Lebanon was asked to the chair.

Tunisia suggested the reinforcement of safety and security levels by reducing the gaps between Tunisian and EU/International regulations. It notably asked for training of the inspectors on port state control procedures and monitoring of the recognised organisations.

Algeria stressed that in the wake of the creation of a VTMS, specific training needs will arise. Training activities both theoretical and practical on port state control will also be needed.

Morocco explained the need to address the areas in relation to the application of an IMO voluntary audit and of the new Conventions, such as Maritime Labour Convention and Ballast Water Management Convention.

Following this first assessment of the beneficiary countries' regional and national needs, it was agreed that SAFEMED III beneficiary countries' would provide EMSA with an overview of their main needs by the end of October 2013.