

SAFEMED III

Second Seminar for Mediterranean MoU Port State Control Officers

Lisbon, 23-26 February 2015

Summary Report

The 2nd Seminar for Mediterranean MoU (MEDMOU) Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) was held from 23 to 26 February 2015 at EMSA premises.

It was tailored on the new MEDMOU procedures and structured similarly to the seminars delivered by EMSA in the framework of the mandatory training policy adopted in the Paris MoU region with the aim to develop and maintain the competences of port state control officers of European region.

The seminar was attended by 11 participants from 6 SAFEMED III beneficiary countries which are also MEDMOU members, i.e. Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

After the introductory tour de table and opening of the seminar, the first day started with general presentations of the SAFEMED III project, focusing on planned port state control regional and bilateral actions.

The general presentation was followed by a focus on Flag and Port State roles in the enforcement and implementation of the IMO instruments.

The core of the seminar was a simulated inspection exercise based on a complex case study related to a port state control inspection according to the MEDMOU procedures.

Starting from the pre-boarding preparation to the verification of certificates and documents, decision on the type of inspections to be carried out, checks in the deck department and in the engine-room as well as finding out possible issues related to the safety management system (ISM).

Participants were divided into groups composed by PSCOs from different countries. They were asked to work together to find an agreed solution to the case studies. This was followed by a plenary discussion between all groups coordinated by EMSA mentors on how to overcome challenges encountered during the vessel inspections. During the discussion each group was requested to justify its own conclusions referring to the relevant Mediterranean text and guidance.

Throughout the 8 steps of the simulated inspection the main principles and basic rules of port state control inspections in accordance with the Mediterranean MoU text, manual and relevant instructions were recalled, such as, for example, the principle of "No more favourable treatment".

Working together by PSCOs from different countries contributed not only to develop and maintain their technical skills but also to harmonise the application of the Memorandum's procedures in the Mediterranean Region.

During the seminar EMSA lecturers of the Training & Cooperation team were assisted by the Counsellor for Maritime Affairs at the Athens Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus, who actively participated to the MEDMOU Secretariat meetings and revised the MEDMOU text and relevant guidelines.

The last day of the seminar was dedicated to the MEDMOU inspection database (MEDSIS), the Director of the MEMOU Information Centre delivered a lecture on the new MEDSIS functionalities supporting the new MEDMOU manual. Participants had the opportunity to get familiar with the new MEDSIS platform which will be officially launched by the MEDMOU Secretariat 15 March 2015.

The following proposals for the future actions in the area of PSC were received from the participants and speakers during the seminar and in the final evaluation forms:

- 1) Development of a MEDSIS mobile version which indeed would contribute to improve the quality of the inspection once the MEDMOU rule-check is running and linked to MEDSIS;
- 2) Plan more PSC seminars on MEDMOU procedures in order to offer the possibility to more MEDMOU PSCOs to attend the seminar;
- 3) Plan joint PSC inspections to assist the PSCOs in the correct implementation of the procedures once on board;
- 4) Plan PSC seminars on MEDMOU procedures as part of a training policy to be adopted by the MEDMOU Secretariat considering the current PMOU one as a benchmark. If adopted it would definitely improve the MEDMOU PSCOs level of competence;
- 5) *Ad hoc* sessions to improve participants' knowledge of MEDMOU relevant instruments to be considered.

The session was well received by the participants that have been cooperating between them for the entire duration of the seminar and this is an achievement in view of an enhanced harmonisation of inspections in the MEDMOU region.