

Meeting: 13th Mediterranean AIS Expert Working Group

Place and date: Rome, 17 November 2015

Agenda item: New Terms of Reference of the MAREΣ EWG

Document number: MAREΣ 13/11/1

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	The document presents a new Terms of Reference for the MAREΣ EWG.
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 3.
Related documents	12 th Mediterranean AIS Expert Working Group Workshop report

1. Introduction

The setting up an Experts Working group (EWG) was agreed at Workshop on Vessels Traffic Monitoring and its Mediterranean dimension (Brussels, 21 & 22 November 2005), and the Terms of Reference for the Mediterranean AIS EWG were agreed at 2nd Workshop (8th May 2006) by the experts of the Member States, acceding and candidate Countries.

The 9th MAREΣ Experts Working Group (EWG) workshop (Rome, 2 December 2010) acknowledged that a package of improvements relating to the functionalities of the Mediterranean AIS Regional Server had been implemented by Italy (e.g. updating the MAREΣ database, improving the web application, implementing the data quality monitoring tools, etc.) and agreed that the work of the group should continue. Some participants also proposed that the mandate of the group should be updated.

At EWG 12 (Rome, 22nd October 2014) the group decided to update the Terms of Reference of the EWG.

2. Terms Of Reference

The amended Terms of Reference are presented in the Annex of this document, and include: the objective of the ToR; the governance of the EWG; the rules of participation; tasks of the EWG, and administrative issues.

3. Action Required

Participants are invited to discuss the amended ToR and provide their feedback.

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN AIS EXPERT WORKING GROUP (MAREΣ AIS EWG)

The setting up of an Experts Working group (EWG) dealing with the development of a Mediterranean regional center was agreed at Workshop (21 & 22 November 2005), and its Terms of Reference for the Mediterranean AIS EWG were agreed by the experts of the Member States at the second Workshop (8th May 2006).

The national administrations of the participating Member States approved the Terms of Reference of the Mediterranean AIS EWG via formal exchange of letters between the Italian Coast Guard and the National Competent Authorities of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Member States plus Portugal. The Italian Coast Guard offered the necessary infrastructure for hosting the regional server and developed the interfaces with creating the Member States concerned. The EWG named the regional AIS network MAREΣ (Mediterranean AIS Regional Exchange Server) at 8th EWG meeting (Rome, 10 December 2009).

According to the provisions of the Interface Functionalities and Control Document (IFCD) (V.1.1 adopted on 2 December 2014), the AIS regional servers constitute an integral part of SafeSeaNet established in accordance with Directive 2002/59/EC, as long as the participating Member States use it as an alternative to the direct connection to the central SafeSeaNet.

Having regard that MAREΣ is used by the participating Member States to comply with their SafeSeaNet obligations and considering the experience gained as well as the evolving requirements, the MAREΣ EWG decided to revise the Terms of Reference as follows:

I. Objectives

The objective of the MAREΣ EWG is to develop, maintain and coordinate the operational, administrative and technical solutions for further improvement and upholding the Mediterranean AIS system with the aim to extend cooperation in the area of Directive 2002/59/EC.

II. Governance

The MAREΣ EWG is coordinated and leaded by European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), until the participating Member States agree on a different arrangement.

III. Participation

The MAREΣ EWG consists of representatives of the competent authorities of the States belonging to one of the following Groups:

- Members States: administrations participating in MAREΣ to fulfill EU legal requirements;
- Participants States: administrations participating in MAREΣ on the basis of relevant regional or sub-regional projects/agreements;
- Observers States: administrations participating ad-hoc in MAREΣ e.g. in the framework of regional initiatives (such as SafeMed and Traceca).

Each MAREΣ State has the right to nominate one or more participants to participate in the MAREΣ EWG.

IV. Tasks

The tasks of the MAREΣ EWG are:

1. Uphold, maintain and further develop the Mediterranean AIS system:
 - Coordinate the exchange of the agreed AIS information between the MAREΣ AIS RS participating countries and the MAREΣ AIS Regional server.
 - Propose developments of the MAREΣ AIS Regional server and upholding practical technical issues related to the AIS.
 - Ensure that each national AIS monitoring system can be linked to the system of the other Mediterranean AIS Regional server participating State.
 - Agree on the information to be recorded.
 - Establish a common approach on how to create operational / technical / software solutions to initiate statistic material (e.g. by automatic registration when ships pass a reporting line); assist MAREΣ AIS RS and EMSA in developing statistics on the shipping traffic in the Mediterranean region.
 - Ensure mutual support and exchange of know-how acquired during connection with, establishment of and operation of national AIS monitoring systems.
2. Follow-up the international AIS-development as well as developments of the European AIS systems and provide inputs and feedback to EMSA, with regard to testing and implementation of new solutions and regulations.
3. Harmonize the development of national AIS networks as appropriate:
 - Develop and maintain requirements for availability of the services and service level for the national and the regional systems.
 - Work on improving the AIS data quality.
 - Review using the available software planning tool for the time reservations and planning of base stations installations (e.g. FATDMA).
 - Analyze and improve the current traffic monitoring infrastructure and systems availability.
 - Follow up the further developments and upgrades of the AIS shore based infrastructure of the participating states.
4. Support EU initiatives towards the implementation of a VTMS in the MAREΣ area:
 - Consider the legal framework and implement solutions for exchanging, handling and using of AIS data exchanged between the MAREΣ AIS Regional server participating States, including the integrity and quality of the data.
 - Consider and implement solutions on how to extend cooperation on AIS matters with 3rd countries through the MAREΣ RS and cooperate with all relevant projects, such as SAFEMED, TRACECA, and Adriatic-Ionian Initiative.
5. Develop solutions to support the shipping safety in the region:
 - Continue the development of tools to detect and report inconsistent and erroneous AIS information, in particular IMO and MMSI numbers, and to co-operate with the Port State Control and Flag State Control authorities in solving the problem.

- Consider possibilities to extend monitoring of non-compliant ships entering the MAREΣ area, e.g. ships which have been detained under the 1982 Paris MoU.
 - Ensure mutual support, technical harmonization and exchange of experience in connection with the establishment, operation and development of infrastructure related to SAR services.
6. Explore possibilities and develop solutions for supporting the users in the area of the environment (by integrating MAREΣ with the EMSA oil spill monitoring information system CleanSeaNet and the national oil spill models operating in the MAREΣ region) as well as in other areas of cooperation.

V. Meetings

Unless agreed otherwise, the MARES EWG meetings will take place in Rome, Italy

VI. Fees

Except where it is specifically agreed otherwise, each MARES participant shall cover the cost of any expenditure it incurs relating to participation in the MARES EWG.

VII. Agreement, Amendments and Approval

The Terms of Reference as well as any amendments are subject to a mutual agreement by the EWG.