

Coordination meeting between EMSA and representatives of the BS MoU Secretariat, 6 – 7 April 2017 at EMSA premises in Lisbon

Background

The “Maritime safety, security and marine environmental protection in the Black and Caspian Sea regions” Project foresees the implementation of the PSCOs’ training as included in the professional development scheme adopted by the BS MoU Committee.

This activity is the follow-up of the PSC related activities implemented during the previous project which included:

- provision of RuleCheck and Distance Learning Packages to BS MoU Members and other project’s beneficiaries;
- development of a dedicated BS MoU folder in RuleCheck with regional procedures;
- development of a Distance Learning module on BS MoU procedures;
- organisation of Tutoring Projects on PSC upon request of project’s beneficiaries.

In this context, a Coordination meeting between EMSA and representatives of the BS MoU Secretariat was organised and held on 6 – 7 April 2017 at EMSA premises in Lisbon in order to discuss the way forward to implement the action and contribute to the harmonisation of PSC standards in the region.

Summary of the meeting

The meeting started with the welcome of the Head of Unit B.3 “Environment and Capacity Building” to the representatives of the BS MoU Secretariat.

The meeting continued with the EMSA presentation (Annex 1) giving information about the Project, its general key actions and the key actions in the field of PSC in particular. The presentation focussed on the proposed structure for PSCOs seminars supporting the implementation of the BS MoU Professional Development Scheme as well as on the structure of possible tutoring projects on PSC that can be organised upon request of the project’s beneficiaries.

In addition, needed improvements in terms of actual use of the tools (RuleCheck and DLP) were highlighted by EMSA which proposed the introduction of half-day *ad hoc* training during the BS MoU PSCOs seminars on the use of RuleCheck and MaKCs (the EMSA platform for DLPs) as a mean to raise awareness of the final users (BS MoU and PSCOs) on the added value of the tools.

Taking into account the information provided, upon request of the BS MoU Secretariat EMSA will consider the implementation of complementary/supporting additional training actions contributing to the further enhancements of PSC inspections standards in the Black Sea region. This may include the possibility of developing a vocational training for BS MoU PSCOs.

EMSA presentation was followed by the BS MoU presentation (Annex 2) that briefed about the numbers of the district and local officers and ports involved in PSC activities per BS MoU Member State and about the activities of the authorities to make sure that PSCOs meet and maintain the relevant qualifications.

In addition, the BS MoU representatives informed about followings recent developments in the Region particularly for what concerns the update of the relevant BS MoU procedures and instructions that have been harmonised with PMoU.

BS MoU representatives highlighted that a “strategic action plan” for the period of 2016 - 2020 has been adopted by the Committee. The Plan includes the following:

- Training is essential for the interpretation and effective use of guidelines, and implementation of the BS MoU New Inspection Scheme. A seminar was held in 2015 hosted by the Bulgarian Maritime Administration. Inspection data reveals that it should be repeated.
- Effective use of the BSIS tools are necessary, should be included in the training.
- Analysis of inspection and data on the monitoring use and Access to Rule Check/DLP by Authorities and region important.

BS MoU Secretariat representatives also highlighted that they are rather in favour of EMSA’s support to the implementation of their training scheme in the context of the Project. The Secretariat further informed EMSA that in accordance with the professional development scheme for PSCOs adopted by the BS MoU Committee, a number of DLPs made available by EMSA during the previous project became part of the BS MoU Members training policies and have been made mandatory to be completed by the BS MoU PSCOs .

The presentations and analysis of the scheme were followed by a discussion during which EMSA expressed its readiness to further elaborate on structure and content of the proposed Seminars for BS MoU PSCOs as well as to perform the necessary number of seminars on regional basis if so agreed by the BS MoU Committee or, on bilateral basis, with each BS MoU Member State requesting the support of the Project to fulfil the national responsibilities toward the implementation of the scheme.

The BS MoU Secretariat highlighted that the provision of support for the implementation of the scheme to all BS MoU Members (including those States which are not project’s beneficiaries) would facilitate the regional rather the national approach with a clear benefit in terms of quality and harmonisation of PSC inspections in the Black Sea.

Conclusions and follow-up

The Coordination meeting between EMSA and the BS MoU Secretariat proved to be very useful and served as an outline for the actions that should follow during the BCSEA project implementation.

Some of the main follow-up actions arising from the Coordination meeting are:

- EMSA to provide structure and to propose content of PSCOs seminar to the BS MoU Secretariat for follow-up;
- EMSA on the request by the BS MoU Secretariat will be available to present the proposed action to the BS MoU Committee to incentivise a regional approach to the technical assistance to the BS MoU Members;
- BS MoU Secretariat will address EMSA with request for additional assistance in the field of PSC including development of vocational trainings, etc.;
- The BS MoU Secretariat noted that the implementation of technical actions not foreseen by the Project's Terms of Reference (ToR) is subject to the approval by the Contracting Authority.