

**DECISION 1/2019 OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE UNDER THE TWA  
(discussed or) Adopted on 15 May 2019 in Lisbon, Portugal**

**Annual Strategic Plan 2020**

**Introduction**

In 2016, the co-legislator enshrined in the founding regulation of EFCA, EMSA and Frontex a common article describing how the three agencies would work together *to support national authorities carrying out Coastguard functions at national and Union level, and where appropriate at international level*. Three years later, the interagency cooperation has become part of the daily work of the three agencies. The *modus operandi* has been codified in a Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA) and both EFCA, EMSA and Frontex present now the same section in their working programme and respective annual report on Coastguard cooperation.

Conscious that cross sector initiatives performed by two or three agencies can benefit a wider number of authorities around EU and beyond, EFCA, EMSA and Frontex are hereby presenting their Annual Strategic Plan on Coastguard cooperation setting the objectives for the year to come in the 5 areas explicitly referred to in the common article. The Plan is being submitted for consultation and approval by the respective governing board of the three agencies.

The objectives presented in the next pages are the result of the discussions between the three competent agencies on how to best serve the needs for cross sectoral activities. Another element of paramount importance is the feedback of the national authorities referred to in the common article.

Throughout the last year there were several opportunities for interaction between EFCA, EMSA and Frontex and the final users of the agencies' services: joint training, national and regional initiatives covering more than one coastguard functions, the three ECGFF/EU agencies co-organised events, all helped to fine tune and increase the added value of the cross sectoral services delivered. Last and very important, during the Annual European Coast Guard event held in Swinoujscie in April 2019, the relevant stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input on the five areas for cooperation: information sharing, surveillance and communication services, capacity building, risk analysis and capacity sharing.

## Priorities for 2020 (outline)

### Horizontal

- To hold the annual joint European Coast Guard event under the coordination of EMSA in line with the experience gained at the previous annual events, while enhancing interaction between participants.
- To promote further European cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions at EU, EU sea basins and national level.
- To ensure the annual joint participation of the agencies in the European Maritime Day.
- To produce a set of communication tools (brochures, videos etc.) promoting EU inter-agency Cooperation and make it available to the three agencies for dissemination.
- To organise a joint hearing at the European parliament in 2020 on the outcome of inter-agency cooperation.

### *Information sharing*

- Exchange of vessel position and earth observation data between the three agencies based on the SLA's in place, complete the mapping of data sets, analyse the usefulness to identifying of cooperative and non-cooperative objects at sea and to take one area, SAR, for which all three agencies have an interest, to work together to support the Member States SAR Community, to improve the awareness of Member States of the data available and to improve the exchange of information with them.
- Visualisation and identification of assets participating in operations in the maritime picture, where possible.
- Continue to explore machine learning/artificial intelligence applied to the maritime picture to the benefit of MS national authorities.
- To explore how to structure enhanced cooperation between EU agencies and Member States, for example with Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres, for exchange of operational information in real time and other provisions related to responses.

### ***Surveillance and communication services***

- To analyse the possibility to increase specific surveillance and communication services to relevant stakeholders and to identify additional opportunities.
- To avoid duplication and overlap of surveillance and communication services, in particular in the area of RPAS services
- For EMSA to continue to offer RPAS services to Frontex and EFCA communities in support of coast guard functions.
- Where possible, data should be exchanged between the agencies generated by RPAS deployments.

### ***Capacity building***

- To finalise and keep updated the Handbook on European Cooperation on Coastguard Functions.
- To ensure an appropriate follow-up by the agencies of the outcome of the relevant components of the ECGFA Network Project.
- To offer the following joint cross-sectoral training to Member State national authorities:
  - Search and Rescue (MRCC personnel)
  - Maritime surveillance
  - Fishing vessels safety/Fisheries control
- To jointly develop future EU capacity building cooperation programmes with third countries in Coast guard function, where relevant.

### ***Risk Analysis***

- To further enhance cooperation on cross-sector risk management between the EU agencies and Member States authorities by:
  - Providing procedures/methods to perform a combined (where possible) risk assessment at strategic level covering the areas of competence of each Agency (safety, security, environment, fishery, border, etc);
  - Providing options to share the outcomes of risk assessments;
  - Providing options for the establishment of a multi-risk sea picture, at a sea basin level with integrated analytical outcome.

## *Capacity sharing*

- To further identify opportunities between EU agencies on capacity sharing for assets to support different coast guard functions, such as the operation of the EFCA vessel which has been equipped and trained by EMSA for antipollution purposes.
- To develop a common understanding between EU Agencies of the concept for European Multipurpose Maritime Activities, including new identified elements, such as the capacity sharing with the use of multinational crews/experts and assets for the implementation of Multipurpose Maritime Operations (MMOs) in various basins of European Union.
- To develop guidelines for multipurpose operations implemented by EU agencies based on the related existing regimes including relevant legal frameworks.