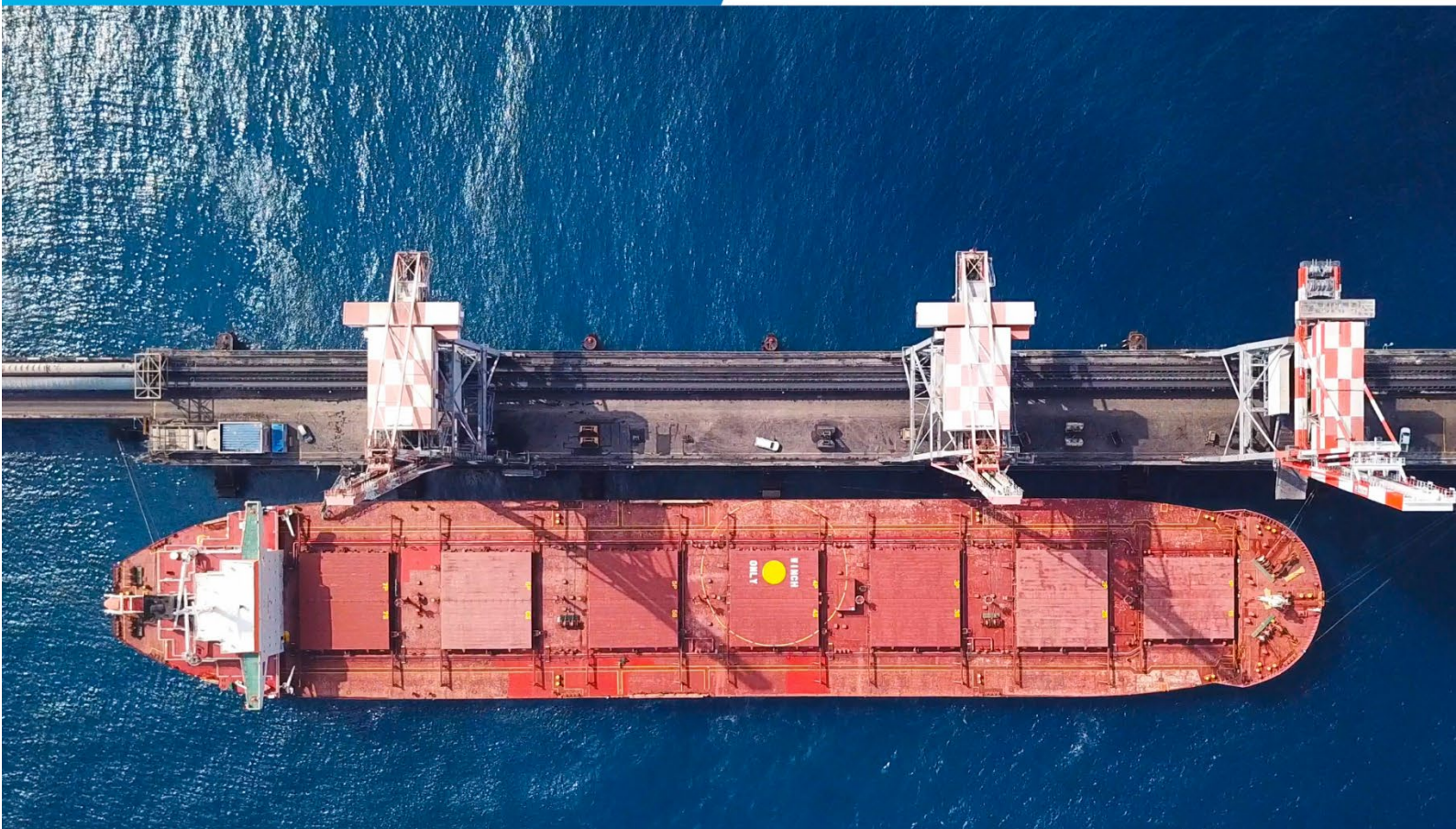




MAR-ICE NETWORK 6TH EVALUATION REPORT

SIXTH REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF
THE MAR-ICE NETWORK COVERING ITS
OPERATION FROM JANUARY 2024
TO JUNE 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 In implementing the EMSA Action Plan for Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS Action Plan) adopted by the EMSA Administrative Board in June 2007, the MAR-ICE Network for marine pollution chemical emergencies was established on 17 October 2008 through a 3-party Cooperation Agreement (as amended) signed by the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), the Centre de Documentation de Recherche et d'expérimentations sur les pollutions accidentelles des eaux (CEDRE) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). The Network currently runs through to 16 December 2027.

1.2 The MAR-ICE Network provides upon request, 24/7, EU Member States and coastal EFTA states with expert information, documentation, and advice on chemical substances, supporting their decision-making process when responding to maritime incidents involving the release of chemicals or the threat thereof. This expert information and advice can be provided to the requester remotely, via telephone or e-mail (MAR-ICE Level 1), and on-site at the requesting country's command centre (MAR-ICE Level 2), via a company of the chemical industry holding relevant know-how, who may send product-specific experts to the requesting country. A leaflet describing the Network's scope and the expert information service it provides is published on EMSA's website.

1.3 Since January 2025, the MAR-ICE Level 1 service (remote information and advice) is also available to Beneficiary countries of the EU financed projects for technical assistance to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) implemented by EMSA.

1.4 The MAR-ICE service is operational since 2009 and has been activated by EU and EFTA/EEA countries 75 times to date, both for real incidents and exercises. As agreed among the three parties, CEDRE serves as the MAR-ICE Contact Point (single entry point) to the Network, receiving all the requests for assistance and coordinating the information and expert advice provided. Cefic is the coordinating body of the Intervention in Chemical Transport Emergencies (ICE) Network for land transport of chemicals incidents and supports the MAR-ICE Network with the chemical industry's expertise, while EMSA established the Network and maintains, coordinates and reviews the MAR-ICE Network and the service it provides.

1.5 The three parties hold regular meetings to review and evaluate the service's implementation. This report provides a summary of the sixth review of the MAR-ICE Network and the service provided in the period from January 2024 to June 2026, based on the 6th MAR-ICE evaluation meeting held in Lisbon on 3 June 2026.

2. MAR-ICE Network developments (2024 – mid 2026)

2.1 In the period covered by this report, the following MAR-ICE developments took place:

- EMSA implements EU financed projects for technical assistance to the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) Beneficiary countries. The Action Plan documents of these projects foresee the provision to the project beneficiaries of tools and services as part of building up national capacities on marine pollution preparedness and response. Accordingly, and as of January 2025, the MAR-ICE Level 1 service (remote expert information and advice for chemical emergencies at sea) was made available also to the Beneficiary countries of the EU financed projects SAFEMED V, BC SEA II and IPA III.
- To accommodate this service expansion to the ENP / IPA Beneficiary countries, the 3-party Cooperation Agreement among EMSA, CEDRE and Cefic establishing the MAR-ICE Network was amended in 2024.
- To raise awareness of the service, two national online "MAR-ICE familiarisation sessions" were conducted in 2024 for EU Member States authorities, providing (upon request) the opportunity for a wider national or local audience, to better understand how to activate the service and what type of support it can provide. During these sessions, experts from CEDRE and EMSA provide detailed information on the service's scope whilst explaining in detail the activation procedures, presenting relevant case-studies and discussing any questions about the service.
- Furthermore, three regional online "MAR-ICE familiarisation sessions" were provided for the ENP and IPA Beneficiary countries, so that the relevant national authorities in the region can gain a better understanding of the new service's scope and activation. In addition, an in-person training on the MAR-ICE service was held in

2025 at CEDRE's premises for the ENP and IPA Beneficiary countries, providing participants with knowledge on the response to chemicals at sea and in harbours, as well as practical information on the MAR-ICE service.

- To further raise awareness of the service among the chemical industry's ICE Network, three 'MAR-ICE Tests' were conducted between the MAR-ICE Contact Point (CEDRE) and the national ICE Centres and chemical manufacturers, on the basis of maritime chemical incident scenarios. Both EMSA and CEDRE attended the 2024, 2025 and 2026 annual meetings of the ICE Integration Group, organised by Cefic, to provide relevant updates to the chemical industry on the MAR-ICE service activations.

3. Overview of MAR-ICE activations (2024 – mid 2026)

3.1 Between 1.1.2024 and 30.6.2026, the MAR-ICE Network was activated five times:

- Three times for real incidents, one of which was for a post-incident evaluation, and
- Twice during marine pollution response exercises.

An overview of these MAR-ICE activations is presented in the table below.

Real incidents during which the MAR-ICE Network was activated (January 2024 – June 2026)		
Spain (November 2024)	The incident involved a vessel collision and the spill at sea of one product (Paraffin). A request was made for more information about the product.	Activation of MAR-ICE Level - 1 The MAR-ICE service provided relevant product-specific documentation (SDS, MAR-CIS), information on the substance's behaviour and advice regarding the substance involved, as well as drift modelling outputs.
Norway (March 2025)	The incident involved a vessel being towed close to shore following an engine failure, with fertiliser as cargo on board. A request was made for information on how the product would react in case of fire on board (there was no fire or cargo spillage during this request).	Activation of MAR-ICE Level - 1 The MAR-ICE service provided relevant product-specific documentation (SDS), information and advice regarding the product.
Norway (April 2026)	This activation was done in the framework of a post-incident assessment of a previous real case. The incident involved an abandoned vessel following an engine failure, with two products on board. A request was made for information regarding risks associated with the cargo and the vessel's stability.	Activation of MAR-ICE Level - 1 The MAR-ICE service provided relevant product-specific documentation (SDS, MAR-CIS), information and advice regarding the products' behaviour, toxicity, as well as information regarding the cargo's stability, transport (IMSBC) and associated short risk assessment.
Exercises during which the MAR-ICE Network was activated (January 2024 – June 2026)		
Italy RAMOGEPOL Exercise (May 2024)	The exercise scenario involved the spill at sea of 2 products: Caustic soda (solid form) (UN 1823) and Paraffin wax (solid). The request covered product specific information.	MAR-ICE Level - 1 activation Request for product specific information for the two substances. The MAR-ICE service provided the following product-specific documentation and information regarding the substances involved: ▪ Safety Datasheets (SDS) & MAR-CIS datasheets ▪ ERICards (in Italian language) ▪ CEDRE chemical response guide Information was also provided about the products' behaviour and impacts, as well as advice on possible actions to be taken.

Spain (February 2025)	The exercise scenario involved fire on board a vessel (no spillage of product at sea, only on the deck of the ship). Products involved: Ethyl Alcohol, Sulfuric Acid, Butane (gas) and Hydrogen Peroxide. Request covered product specific information.	MAR-ICE Level - 1 activation Request for product specific information. The MAR-ICE service provided the following product-specific documentation and information regarding the products involved: ▪ MAR-CIS datasheets ▪ ERICards ▪ CEDRE chemical guide Fire-relevant information and information about the products' behaviour and impacts were also provided.
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4. MAR-ICE Network sixth review and evaluation

4.1 CEDRE's role as the MAR-ICE Contact Point (single entry point for service)

4.1.1 In all cases of the MAR-ICE Network's activations, CEDRE acted very efficiently in providing initial relevant product-specific documentation (e.g., MAR-CIS datasheets, Safety Data Sheets, EriCards, chemical guides, extracts from relevant documents, IMO codes and applications, ...), advice and information within 1 hour. In one case, the 1-hour timeline was not followed, due to the complexity and completeness of the initial information provided by the MAR-ICE Contact Point. The initial response was in most cases followed by the provision of additional information and advice, mostly on the substance's behaviour in the marine environment, the substance's fate and trajectory (modelling outputs), or a short risk assessment for the marine environment and the responders. In all cases there was good communication and exchanges with the requesting administrations.

4.1.2 The promptness, professionalism and expertise of the replies provided by CEDRE are consistently very much appreciated by the service's users, as indicated in the user-feedback received following the service's activations. The users acknowledge the importance and benefit of having rapid access to professional product and incident-specific information on chemical substances and their associated hazards and risks, as well as receiving timely expert advice when dealing with maritime chemical emergencies. Even when such information and documentation may be available at national level, which is not always the case, the MAR-ICE Network provides an additional source of expertise, which together with the advice and clarifications provided, are very important to support national decision-making during emergencies involving chemical substances. The provision of a short operational summary, drawing attention to the key points and highlighting main hazards and risks or elements of concern associated with the substance(s) involved, has received positive feedback by the service users, noting that sometimes the initial documentation provided may require further analysis and explanations.

4.1.3 In the period under review, CEDRE continued conducting the MAR-ICE Tests with the chemical industry under the ICE Network and contributed to the national and regional MAR-ICE familiarisation sessions held with Member States and ENP and IPA Beneficiary countries, aiming to raise awareness of the service within the chemical industry and national administrations respectively. The first in-person training held in 2025 at CEDRE's premises for the ENP and IPA Beneficiary countries was very well received by the participants.

4.2 Cefic's role as the ICE Scheme coordinator

4.2.1 Cefic plays a crucial role in the MAR-ICE Network as it coordinates the ICE scheme² of the chemical industry, which supports the MAR-ICE Level-1 expertise and provides the MAR-ICE level-2 service. Cefic

² ICE (Intervention in Chemical Transport Emergencies) is a co-operative programme, set up by the European chemical industry, seeking to create a framework for providing assistance in an effective way (for more information visit: <https://www.ice-chem.org/>)

guarantees the chemical industry's awareness of and involvement in the MAR-ICE Network. The ICE product databases maintained under Cefic and the ICE Network are used by the MAR-ICE Contact Point to contact the various National ICE Centres and chemical companies / manufacturers to get more specialised product-specific information, and the importance of keeping these databases accurate and up-to-date was emphasised, to facilitate the rapid and smooth delivery of the MAR-ICE service.

4.2.2 Cefic has a critical role in representing the chemical industry and the ICE partners and is greatly appreciated as a partner of the MAR-ICE Network. Cefic promoted the introduction of the MAR-ICE tests under the ICE Network, which are based on a maritime scenario and raise awareness of the service with the chemical industry. The MAR-ICE Network remains a standing agenda item of the annual ICE Integration Group meetings, allowing for relevant updates and developments to be regularly reported to the chemical industry. In addition, Cefic follows the MAR-ICE Network's activations and follows-up with any issues regarding the participation and contribution of the ICE National centres and the chemical industry to the MAR-ICE Network.

4.2.3 Cefic informed the MAR-ICE partners of the '[European Anthropogenic Scientific Partnership Chemical Pillar \(EAHSP-C\)](#)', launched in late 2024 between Cefic, the BASF Site Emergency Response Team (SERT) and the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) under the European Commission's DG ECHO. According to this initiative, the ICE Network, via BASF's SERT, provides 24/7 the ERCC with rapid scientific and technical advice, situational awareness, and analysis on chemical-related emergencies. Possible synergies and streamlining of information and expertise between this partnership and the MAR-ICE Network, specifically for maritime incidents, will be further explored among the MAR-ICE partners.

4.3 EMSA's role as MAR-ICE Network coordinator

4.3.1 EMSA was the initiator of the MAR-ICE Network and is responsible for coordinating, monitoring, evaluating and further developing the service it provides, based on the Member States feedback and identified needs, to support their decision making and response to maritime emergencies involving chemicals. EMSA's role is to ensure that the service is provided efficiently, continuously and without disruptions. EMSA is always aware of the MAR-ICE activations in real time and after the termination of each activation, EMSA receives an activation report by CEDRE and requests feedback from the service's users, in order to follow up and evaluate the service provided in each case. EMSA also coordinates the regular MAR-ICE Evaluation meetings with its MAR-ICE partners (CEDRE, Cefic), which contribute to the service's implementation and further development.

4.3.2 EMSA's European Maritime Awareness Centre (EMAC³) is listed as a back-up contact point for the MAR-ICE service activation, in the rare case that the MAR-ICE Contact Point at CEDRE is not reachable. The automated ticketing email sent out by the EMAC, each time the MAR-ICE service is activated, will be further reviewed by EMSA, to avoid any confusion in the communication flow between the requester and the MAR-ICE contact point (CEDRE).

4.3.3 EMSA continuously raises awareness among the Member States and the ENP and IPA Beneficiary countries on the MAR-ICE Network, through annual stakeholder meetings (i.e., the CTG MPPR and PRS-User Group meetings, regional meetings), dedicated workshops and through the online national and regional 'MAR-ICE familiarisation sessions' provided by EMSA and CEDRE to interested countries. These inform a wider national audience about the service' scope and activation procedures. EMSA regularly updates the chemical industry on the MAR-ICE service activations and developments through the annual ICE Integration Group meetings.

³ The European Maritime Awareness Centre (EMAC) centre is a 24/7 facility located at EMSA's premises in Lisbon. The EMAC offers round-the-clock support to ensure two main functions: the smooth running of EMSA's maritime applications and providing rapid assistance in the event of an emergency at sea.

4.4 Outcome of the 6th MAR-ICE evaluation meeting

On the basis of the discussions during the 6th MAR-ICE Evaluation meeting held among the three MAR-ICE parties (CEDRE, Cefic, EMSA) in Lisbon on 3 June 2026, the following points were agreed for follow-up:

- The MAR-ICE Activation Form will be reviewed and further revised, for easier use by the requesting parties, and to address any recent developments or suggestions made in the user-feedback received.
- Accompanying the information and documentation provided remotely by the Network with a short operational summary, highlighting the key points to note regarding the specific substance and the particularities of the incident or scenario, has proven very useful for the service user and will continue to be provided by the MAR-ICE Contact Point.
- The parties took note of the 'European Anthropogenic Scientific Partnership-Chemical Pillar (EAHSP-C)', between Cefic, BASF and the European Commission (DG ECHO/ERCC) and agreed to jointly explore possible synergies, information exchange and streamlining procedures between the MAR-ICE Network and the chemical partnership specifically regarding maritime incidents.
- The parties agreed to maintain the frequency of the MAR-ICE Tests within the ICE Network, i.e., the tests conducted by CEDRE towards the chemical industry based on maritime HNS incident scenarios, to continue raising awareness of the service among the chemical industry.
- CEDRE will strive to proactively involve the ICE Network as much as possible in the MAR-ICE service activations during exercises, both regarding Level 1 and Level 2 activations, to raise awareness of the service and of the type of expert advice the chemical industry can provide.
- The importance of having up-to-date information available on the products (UN numbers) covered in each country under the ICE scheme was highlighted as crucial for the smooth and rapid delivery of the MAR-ICE service and the status of the national ICE product databases will be reviewed by Cefic.
- The automated ticketing email sent out by the EMSA European Maritime Awareness Centre (EMAC), each time the MAR-ICE service is activated, will be further reviewed by EMSA, to avoid any confusion in the communication between the requesting country and the MAR-ICE contact point (CEDRE).
- EMSA will inform Cefic of the planned national or regional online MAR-ICE familiarisation sessions, so that Cefic can attend to inform about the ICE Network and its role under the MAR-ICE Network.
- The parties will explore holding in 2027 a 2nd dedicated online MAR-ICE webinar for Member States, chemical industry, and other relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness on the service. Topics to be addressed in the webinar could include for example, new emerging challenges when dealing with chemical incidents at sea, the support to chemical incidents available at EU level and the complementarity between the ICE scheme, the MAR-ICE Network and the European Anthropogenic Scientific Partnership- Chemical Pillar (EAHSP-C), the scope of Level 2 activations and support provided (under ICE and MAR-ICE), and good practices in the preparation of HNS maritime exercise scenarios.

4.4.2 The concrete follow-up actions listed above will be addressed and implemented (as appropriate) in the course of 2026/2027 and the Member States will be informed of any further developments of the MAR-ICE service accordingly. The three parties agreed to maintain regular MAR-ICE Evaluation meetings, every 2-3 years.

4.4.3 This 6th MAR-ICE Network Evaluation report is published on EMSA's website <http://emsa.europa.eu/>.

European Maritime Safety Agency

Praça Europa 4
1249-206 Lisbon, Portugal
Tel +351 21 1209 200
Fax +351 21 1209 210



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