

## Meeting: CSN 21<sup>st</sup> User Group Meeting

**Place and date:** Lisbon, 09 March 2022

**Agenda item:** CSN Support to Operations, Exercises and Emergencies Overview

**Document number:** CSN 21.3.1

**Submitted by EMSA**

Summary	This paper provides summary information on additional activities undertaken in 2021 in reply to requests for support to specific Operations, Emergencies and Exercises.
Action to be taken	The CSN User Group is invited to take note of the information provided.

## 1 Background

This paper presents a summary of services delivered in 2021 following specific requests, on top of the regular monitoring activities.

These include:

- support to specific maritime operations and exercises;
- support to maritime emergencies following the activation of the EMSA Contingency Plan.

## 2 Support to Operations

In 2021, three operations were supported with additional CSN services entailing ad-hoc planning activities, as detailed in Table 1.

Table 1-List of Operations supported in 2021

Date	Requesting country	Operation	EO products
June	Sweden	Tour D'Horizon	10 SAR
July	Belgium	Tour D'Horizon	10 SAR
September	Norway	Super CEPCO	4 SAR

## 3 Support to Exercises

Member States requested support from CleanSeaNet service during exercises. The exercises enable testing and fine-tuning of the emergency procedures and gaining experience on the possible satellite coverage in such scenarios. In 2021, seven pollution response exercises were supported by CleanSeaNet, listed in Table

2 and displayed in Figure 1. A total of five optical EO products were ordered with the purpose of supporting the exercises' activities which involved national and/or EMSA's assets on site. The CleanSeaNet service also provided feasibility analysis for the notification and tabletop exercises, meaning that a list of potential images was provided but no actual images were delivered.

Table 2-List of Exercises supported in 2021

Date	Requesting country	Exercise Name	EO products
May	France	RAMOGEPOL	1 Optical
July	Bulgaria	BREEZE	1 Optical
August	Finland	BALEX	2 Optical
September	Ireland	Blue Kingdom	1 SAR images previously planned under the CSN routine planning. List of potential additional images (feasibility analysis) provided
October	Portugal	POLEX Portugal	List of potential images (feasibility analysis) provided
November	Cyprus	NEMESIS	List of potential images (feasibility analysis) provided
November	Spain	POLEX Spain	1 Optical

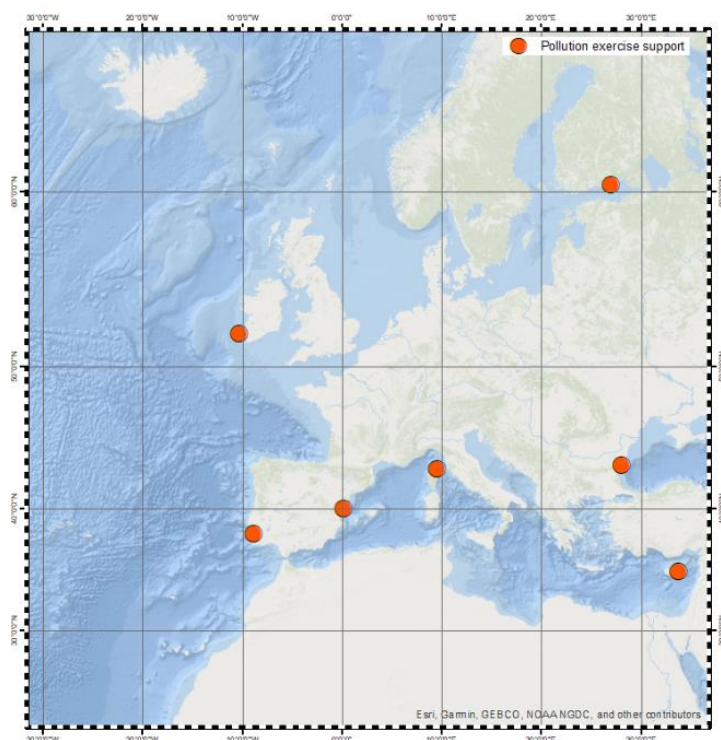


Figure 1 – Map of CSN exercises supported in 2021

## 4 Support to Emergencies

In 2021, EMSA provided support to 17 emergency requests, through the activation of the Agency's Contingency Plan (CP). The scope of the EMSA CP is to provide support to maritime incidents that may entail risk of pollution or loss of human life at sea. e.g. Response and monitoring of major oil spill or support to search and rescue operations.

EMSA implemented a new approach to support emergency requests, enabling responding to requests originated by entities from EU and non-EU countries and considering the different types of maritime incidents, not limited to pollution response and to the geographical scope of CleanSeaNet. For that EMSA created a dedicated emergency budget to attend any emergency request which activates the CP. This means that the emergencies addressed in this paper are not necessarily linked with the CleanSeaNet service.

A total of 73 SAR and 18 optical images were ordered to support the emergencies. Table 3 lists the emergencies supported by EMSA in 2021.

Table 3-List of emergencies supported in 2021

Date	Requestor	Description	EO products
15 Feb 2021	Portugal	MRCC Delgada requested support to a search and rescue operation, triggered by an EPIRB COSPAS SARSAT alert, in position 2645.00N-02945.00W on 14 Feb 2021. Initial planned images were cancelled by the end user after reports from a vessel in the vicinity	-
15 Feb 2021	Mauritius	Oil spill monitoring requested by ERCC, on behalf of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). Oil spill detected close to one of the most important heritage islands of Seychelles, south of its Aldabra Island	1 SAR
23 Feb 2021	Lebanon	Sticky black deposits were seen on the Southern coast of Lebanon in Tyre natural reserve. Lebanon requested satellite imagery from Copernicus through the ERCC to better understand the nature and scale of the event	1 SAR + 1 optical
08 Mar 2021	France La Réunion	45-meter fishing vessel LURONG YUAN YU 588 ran aground on a reef on the leeward coast of Mauritius, thus potentially exposing La Réunion to adverse consequences	5 Optical
18 Mar 2021	Greenland	Fishing vessel POLAR AASSIK sunk at QASIGIANNGUIT, after a fire on board. The wreckage was situated in a sensitive environmental area and expected to contain several types of fuel and lubrication oil. The user requested EMSA's support to build situational awareness in relation to the extent of the oil spill and to monitor the area for the following weeks	33 SAR

Date	Requestor	Description	EO products
30 Apr 2021	France La Réunion	MRCC Reunion requested support for oil spill monitoring after the 70-meter bulk carrier HANSSINA ran aground in Tamatave, Eastern coast of Madagascar	1 SAR + 3 Optical
11 May 2021	France La Reunion	FV Wakashio Maru No 68 was declared missing, after losing communications. The vessel last know position was 900 NM off the coast of Madagascar. A SAR image taken on the 18 May detected 3 uncorrelated targets. One of those targets was in fact the missing vessel. The vessel was found after 7 days adrift and 24 crew members were rescued	5 SAR + 4 Optical
12 May 2021	France	FV SCARAMOUCHE sunk in the English Channel, NE of Le Havre, with 3.5 to 4.5 tons of gasoil onboard. In the morning of the 12th of May, a leakage was reported in the vicinity of the wreck. The user requested satellite images for pollution monitoring purposes during the following 3 days	1 SAR
04 Jun 2021	Sri Lanka	ERCC requested assistance in the aftermath of the fire on board of the container carrier X-Press Pearl, in Sri Lanka	2 SAR
10 Jun 2021	Mauritius	Fishing vessel, 15m, ran aground in the forereef in a Mauritius islet. ERCC, on behalf the Mauritius Oceanography Institute requested support for potential oil pollution detection (4 tons of diesel) and potential damages to the marine environment. Requested also optical image to assess status of the grounded vessel	2 SAR
14 Jun 2021	Italy	An oil spill was sighted by a French aircraft and later confirmed by merchant/fishing vessels passing in the area. Satellite images were used to track the oil spill and monitor the response operations	3 SAR + 1 Optical
14 Jul 2021	France - La Reunion	Coaster vessel SAMBIRANO, operating between Moroni (Comoros) and Mahajanga (Madagascar), left Moroni on 08/07/2021 and was expected to arrive in Mahajanga on 11/07/2021. The vessel did not arrive to its destination. MRCC La Reunion requested SAR images to support the search and rescue operation	4 SAR
15 Jul 2021	Ireland	Irish Coast Guard requested optical imagery to monitor the vessel Deepsea Worker, having issues with AIS. The Irish Coast Guard was monitoring the vessel in order to ascertain the activity of the vessel (surveying underwater wrecks) without a permit granted by the state. The overall concern is pollution by way of activity by the vessel on wrecks in the area.	2 Optical
06 Aug 2021	Portugal	MRCC Delgada requested support to searching for the kayak TWINEA, which had not reported its position since 29Jul (LKP - NW off the Azores) There was 1 person onboard the kayak, which was crossing the North Atlantic	2 SAR
28 Aug 2021	Greece	Support to pollution monitoring was requested after the sinking of General Cargo Ship "Sea Bird", which resulted in an oil spill	16 SAR + 1 Optical

Date	Requestor	Description	EO products
30 Aug 2021	Cyprus	Monitoring oil spill originated from one of the fuel tanks of Baniyas Thermal Station (Syria)	2 SAR
24 Dec 2021	Portugal	MRCC Delgada requested support to a search and rescue event in an area north of the Azores. A bright light, associated with a potential fire, was detected. The target was unknown	1 SAR

The Figure 2 shows a map with the emergencies supported by EMSA's CP in 2021. There were two different types of assistance, namely oil spill monitoring and support to search and rescue.

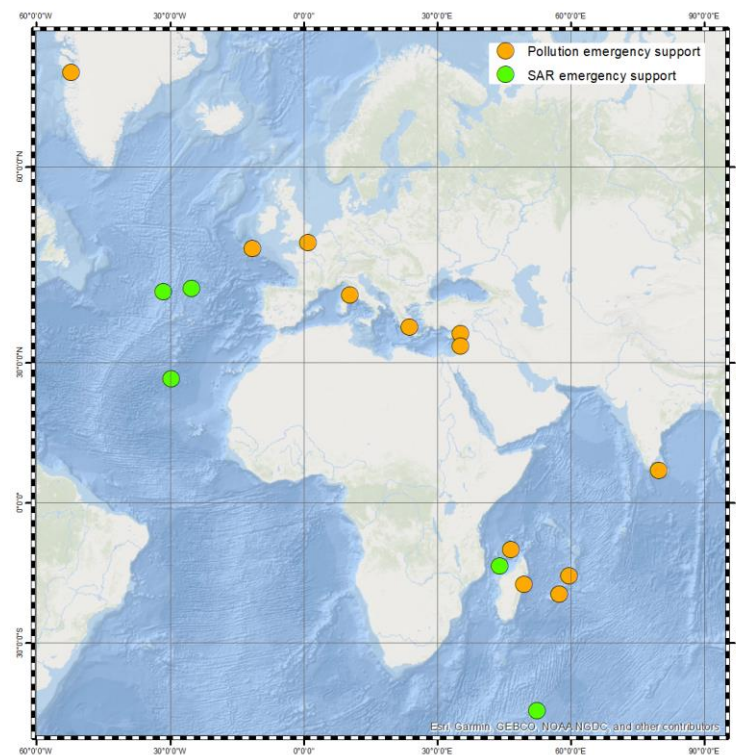


Figure 2 - Map of emergencies supported in 2021

## 5 Actions required

The CSN User Group is invited to take note of the information provided.