EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEA

Brussels,

MARE MSEG-SURVEILLANCE 15

Fifteenth meeting of the Commission's Member State Expert Sub-Group (MSEsG) on the integration of maritime surveillance, 28th April 2015, Brussels

Meeting Report

This meeting was also attended by TAG members as observers. All presentations made during the meeting are available for download on the Maritime Forum:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/

During the morning session, the MSEsG was jointly co-chaired by the Commission (COM MARE) and the European External Action Service (EEAS, Security Policy Division), who presented the state of play of the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) implementation, fostered a discussion on reporting procedures and briefly presented the draft communication campaign concept for the EUMSS. During the afternoon, the meeting was chaired by COM MARE and devoted to maritime CISE.

Chair (COM MARE) opening remarks addressed the extension of the mandate of the MSEsG, noting that henceforward the MSEsG will meet in two separate formats to ensure coherence and integrity of the EUMSS and Maritime CISE. COM mentioned the formality of reporting to MSEG on Maritime Integrated Policy on the modification of mandate (as the MSEsG constitutes one of its subcommittee). NL inquired whether any text will be produced in order to formally revise the current mandate/Terms of Reference, and COM assured there is no formal requirement for ToRs and that no official ToRs will be produced.

1. **EUROPEAN MARITIME SECURITY STRATEGY (EUMSS) ACTION PLAN STATE OF PLAY AND NEXT STEPS**

EEAS reported on the steps taken since the adoption of the Action Plan (AP) on 16 December 2014, and recalled that during the first session of 2015 of the EU MSS 'Friends of the Presidency' Council working group, held on 13 March, MS discussed the reporting process of the EUMSS AP and the draft communication concept for the EUMSS.

On substance, EEAS noted that MS, COM and EEAS have worked together in order to identify lead actors for each action as well as core actions. EEAS explained that the same exercise is undertaken internally.

The EEAS has been promoting the EUMSS in EU's broader political agenda, particularly in view of the EEAS review and the June Defence Council. Regarding migrations in the Mediterranean, EEAS highlighted its contribution to the European Agenda on Migrations knowing the increased synergies between CSDP and the freedom/security/justice actors in tackling this type of issue.

EEAS further underlined that the EUMSS is a partnership document, and reported on ongoing international cooperation activities with third countries and Organizations. In line with this, the African Union requested EU's support for AU Summit on maritime security and development to be held in Lomé, Togo on 7 November 2015. Moreover, as MS have identified enhanced cooperation between the EU and NATO as a political priority, EEAS assured it is working together with NATO staff on elaborating the possible areas for cooperation. EEAS underlined another political development which is the upcoming participation of Columbia in EUNAVFOR Atalanta. EEAS further emphasised the work of the EU in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), namely its zero-zero priority (no merchant vessel has been successfully pirated since May 2012) and the documentation of the lessons learned from fighting piracy in the Horn of Africa.

EEAS also mentioned the first EU-South Africa Maritime Sub-Committee meeting on 24 November 2014 where proposals for cooperation were discussed as well as the 7th Inter-sessional ASEAN Regional Forum held in Honolulu, Hawaii on 30 March-2 April which provided an opportunity for the EU to promote UNCLOS.

In addition, the 2d High Level Dialogue on Maritime Security scheduled for 4-6 May 2015 in Kuala Lumpur will be an opportunity for the EU to promote the EUMSS and some key activities as CISE and CRIMARIO. The EEAS insisted MS should consider these external action activities as theirs and further welcomed the comments and suggestions of the experts.

COM reported about the upcoming European Agenda on Security and Migration, the Commission Communication on Security and Development, the June Defence Council (CSDP) and insisted on the importance of ensuring a coherent agenda on security where maritime security fits. COM also mentioned other Working Groups (namely Research and Transport) where it promotes the EU MSS in order to raise awareness and allow other stakeholders to make use of the EU MSS.

DE reported on the adoption of the ministerial declaration on maritime security by the G7 meeting held in Lübeck, Germany on 14-15 April. This declaration is a political and technical statement inspired by the EUMSS pushing forward the joint agenda with international partners. DE requested information about upcoming concrete actions regarding CSDP.

At IE request, EEAS provided information on the existing cooperation with the UN. EEAS noted that EU-UN cooperation is successfully ongoing at the agency level. Collaborative actions are undertaken in close cooperation with the UN. For example, regarding Maritime Situational Awareness, cooperation with IMO has been critical to build a maritime surveillance mechanism in the Indian Ocean. Moreover, UNODC has been a critical partner in the fight against piracy in the Horn of Africa (among others in the framework of the CGPCS). These examples show that Maritime Security will make it to high level collaboration in the future.

FRONTEX mentioned the majority of law enforcement tasks in the Action Plan and insisted on the need for balance between military and law enforcement components on territorial waters.

LV informed MS of the awareness raising the Presidency is undertaking in various Working Groups of the Council and assured it will report on this at the next Friends of the Presidency meeting in the Council on 19 June.

2.   EUMSS REPORTING PROCEDURES ON IMPLEMENTATION

COM underlined that the implementation of the EU MSS Action Plan needs to be a joint process with MS as several action are (co-owned) by MS. COM called for interaction and sharing views on how to implement the EU MSS Action Plan, the aim of this meeting being to get their views on this process.

COM presented the reporting template, which had been circulated to MSEsG ahead of the meeting, and explained the planned timeline for reporting: one consolidated report of maximum 10 pages should be sent from each MS to a functional mailbox by 18th September 2015. COM recalled that MS should send a consolidated report to COM, which should include the contributions of the relevant national agencies and ministries. Based on MS, COM and EU agencies contribution, an implementation progress report will be sent to the Council every 6 months.

ES requested a written document to pass on to agencies in order to raise their awareness on this.

ES and FR inquired whether actions co-owned by MS and COM should also be reported in the template. IE suggested making clear who reports on co-owned actions. EEAS and COM insisted that the aim was to gather information in a consolidated, comprehensive and systematic way, with the risk of multiplying information on several actions but ensuring that information is available on every action undertaken. COM and EEAS stressed they are not always aware of every action undertaken by each MS, specifically when there is no legislation requirement. COM insisted on adopting a pragmatic approach when filling in the template, bearing in mind that many actions are interlinked. At least for the first report, EEAS and COM consider it is essential to receive a comprehensive report from MS for a complete reporting procedure

IT expressed concerns about the probable length of the compiled implementation progress report. COM responded that the implementation progress report will highlight gaps and best practices or success stories, based on indicators to evaluate the state of play in each area. The objective is not to establish a detailed report but rather a synthetic one. In this view, COM insisted on the adoption of a pragmatic approach when filling in this template, focussing on areas where there is progress.

NL stressed that the formal request for reporting should be sent to representatives of the MS and suggested the creation of a single website that would enable any agency (national or EU) to know what's done where and inquired whether funding was available for this. COM indicated that the first report would be collected on paper but that the possibility to use a web tool would be considered for the following reports as from next semester.

ES was reassured that MS will be consulted on the implementation progress report, as it will be circulated among MS before publication.

3. EUMSS COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

EEAS outlined the rationale and main objective of the communication campaign presented to MS ahead of the March Friends of the Presidency session and welcomed MS comments on the draft communication concept plan, noting that a revised version would be circulated.

COM explained that the development of a strategy and communication toolkit (as posters, flyers, etc.) will be supported through a contract that COM (MARE) has delegated to the European Agency for Small and medium sized Enterprises (EASME). COM insisted the entire concept will not be covered by the current limited budget. ES requested more information about the source of funding for this communication campaign, mentioning the possible contribution from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. ES also inquired how COM and EEAS envisage MS' contribution. COM insisted the communication campaign is seen as a joint effort from COM, EU agencies and MS: it is every agency and MS' responsibility to participate in the communication campaign with its own funds but with the materials provided by COM, and explained the limited available budget for the communication campaign comes from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

4. EUROPEAN AGENDA ON SECURITY

COM reported on the imminent adoption of the European Agenda on Security that is focussing on internal security.

It is based on five principles: 1) fundamental rights; 2) transparency, accountability, democratic control and engagement with civil society, particularly regarding radicalisation; 3) enhanced application of EU legislative instruments; 4) additional joint up inter-agencies cooperation and cross-sectoral approach; 5) bringing together internal and external dimensions of security.

The Agenda sets out three cooperation pillars: information exchange, increased operational cooperation and training and research. Three key priorities have been identified: terrorism and radicalization, organized crime and cyber criminality.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/basic-documents/docs/eu_agenda_on_security_en.pdf

5. EUROPEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS FORUM ACTION PLAN

Mr Marko Tuominen, representative of the Finnish Border Guard, presented the agenda for the Finnish chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) in 2015.

The ECGFF was created in 2009. It is a non-binding, voluntary, independent and non-political forum which brings together the Heads of the Coast Guard Functions of MS and Schengen associated countries. Its overall aim is to study, contribute to and promote understanding and development of maritime issues of common interest across borders and sectors, both civil and military.

The Finnish action plan for 2015 focuses on the following concrete and practical aspects:

- Enhancement of best practices exchange among MS organizations: a seminar on risk analysis has been held in Helsinki on 21st April. An on scene coordinator (OSC) course for search and rescue specialists is planned in August.

- Strengthening the ECGFF role in the EU: the permanent ECGFF office in Brussels has opened early 2015.

- Contribute to the implementation of the EU Maritime Security Strategy, in particular as regards the creation of a Coast Guard Functions Academy Network. The main objective of this initiative is to support the establishment of a network among Coast Guard academies to foster the exchange of training materials, students and expertise. A dedicated training portal will be created under the ECGFF website. The project will also set up the basis of a voluntary sectoral qualifications framework for Coast Guard Functions. The project involves 12 national authorities as contributors and 7 observers. It its supported by an EMFF grant of 640 000 euros for a total budget of 800 000 euros. The kick-off took place on 24th and 25th March and the project will deliver its results in December 2015.

6. CISE AND THE EU DIGITAL AGENDA

Alexandru CHIRIC from DG Mare presented the links between the Maritime Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) action and the Digital Agenda for Europe.

The Digital Agenda for Europe is an important pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy, whose aim is to exploit the potential of ICTs in order to foster innovation, economic growth and progress. The Digital Agenda involves several instruments, including the program for the development of Interoperability Solutions for European public Administrations (ISA program) and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) program, which maintain Digital Service Infrastructures to facilitate data exchange among national administrations. Another instrument is the e-SENS project, which aims at developing generic IT building blocks which are handed out to the CEF once they are mature and operational.

Maritime CISE provides a direct contribution to the Digital Agenda for Europe in the maritime surveillance field, especially as regards the following pillars of the agenda:

I. Contribution to the Digital Single Market strategy: facilitation of seamless and secured information flows across borders; creation of sustainable industry opportunities.

II. Interoperability and standards: definition of common specifications to enable technical, semantic and organizational interoperability in the maritime surveillance domain.

III. Strengthening online trust and security: CISE will facilitate the handling of sensitive data.

IV. Research and innovation: fostering of investment in ICT research and innovation to develop interoperable technologies and data processing solutions for maritime surveillance.

V. ICT-enabled benefits for EU society: enhanced data exchange will lead to an optimized use of information to ensure the safety, security and environmental protection of the EU maritime domain.

The possible reuse of existing Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) components will be assessed by the pre-operational validation project EUCISE 2020. Besides, the future maintenance of CISE components may be supported by a closer cooperation with the CEF program.

7. FOLLOW-UP OF COOPP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Marko Tuominen presented an update on the follow-up of the recommendations made by the Cooperation Project (CoopP).

The CoopP is a test project led by the Finnish Border Guard from December 2012 to March 2014. Its aim was to refine the specifications of CISE. The project has involved 28 partners and 6 associated countries from 12 MS.

The project has delivered the following main results:

- A set of well-defined use cases encompassing cross-sectoral and cross-border data sharing
- A functional description of the information services supporting the selected use cases
- A list of purposes for information exchange
- A generic access rights matrix covering the use cases and the information services identified
- A comprehensive and detailed description of data elements used in the different information services
- An analysis of the added-value of the selected use cases
- A contribution to the economic impact analysis of further integration of maritime surveillance.

The project has delivered 13 recommendations. The status of the follow-up of this recommendation was presented according to three situations: actions taken, in progress, no progress.

Mr Tuominen stated that an appropriate follow-up had been ensured for most of the CoopP recommendations (actions taken or in progress), thanks to a set of consistent actions, including in particular the release of the EUMSS action plan, the launch of the EUCISE 2020 pre-operational validation project, DG MARE calls for proposals to support interoperability improvements in MS, the drafting of the CISE handbook as well as actions undertaken by the ECGFF (European Coast Guard Functions Academy Network, risk analysis seminar, common course on standard operational procedures planned this summer).

However, the lack of follow-up on the following recommendations was highlighted:

- Enable third countries interoperability

DE stressed the potential of CISE technical and semantic developments to support cooperation with third countries. COM underlined that the complexity of interoperability improvements required focusing on the EU dimension at this stage. COM also recalled that the EEAS should be involved as regards cooperation with third countries, as it is already the case for on-going cooperation with several countries.

To ensure a follow-up on this CoopP recommendation, COM proposed to establish, with the contribution from MS, a mapping of the on-going cooperation among the EU and third countries in the field of data exchange. SATCEN indicated that it could present its activity to support countries with prior PSC approval. RO mentioned regional cooperation in the Black Sea and offered to present it in a future MSEsG meeting. MAOC-N explained that its experience in information sharing with the USA is mostly based on face-to-face meetings rather than on automated exchange.

- Adopt an evolutionary approach

Mr Tuominen stressed the importance of developing CISE in a flexible and end-user based approach. COM acknowledged this statement and asked FIN to prepare a working document on how the operational staff working on patrol vessels and aircrafts could be better involved in the CISE development.

- Design and implement a coherent statistical system for maritime phenomena

Mr Tuominen underlined that no discussion had started yet on this objective. Mrs Matarazzi (EUCISE 2020 project coordinator) indicated that performance indicators were difficult to define and that this issue could deserve a dedicated COM project. COM proposed to prepare a working paper on statistical indicators for the next MSEsG meeting.

Regarding the overall CISE developments, F. del Pozo (WPI) questioned the combined references to the "need to know" and "responsibility to share" principles, explaining that they were actually contradicting. He recommended focusing only on the "responsibility to share", i.e. the responsibility to make data available if it can be valuable for other authorities. P. Staff (TAG) underlined that the key issue to reach an effective implementation of CISE was not about technology but the trust and will among stakeholders in the coast guard functions field.

8.   EUCISE 2020 UDPATE

Mrs Carolina Matarazzi, 'EUCISE2020' project coordinator, recalled the objective of the project which is to implement a test-bed network of nodes connecting participating public authorities for cross-sectoral and cross-border information exchange. Mrs Matarazzi presented the state of play of the project management and the on-going activities of the work packages.

The overall project is divided into three phases, running from December 2014 until Mid-2017. Phase 1 is dedicated to the project definition and will last until end 2015. Phase 2 will cover the preparation and execution of the test-bed. It will last 15 month. An ex-post assessment will be carried during phase 3 (8 months).

The complete management structure of the project will be set-up by June 2015. It encompasses the following bodies:

- Stakeholder board (first meeting planned early May) and security board

- Ethical board (first meeting planned in July)

- Project management office (working)

- Independent verification and validation board (active by June)

- Executive management group (working)

- Working groups (working)

- Procurement board

Mrs Matarazzi delivered an update on work packages activity.

- Work package 3 (users coordination and governance model) is leading the following actions:

  - User survey to establish a mapping of existing bilateral and multilateral maritime information sharing agreements, legacy systems and data types handled by these systems. The survey is also focusing on the identification of envisaged interfaces between national legacy systems and the environment which will be tested by EUCISE 2020 as well as the planned use of assets during phase 2.

  - Study on the CISE network topology, taking into account user and legal requirements.

  - Legal impact assessment of EU sectoral and horizontal legislation.

  - Study on possible CISE governance models.

- Work package 4 (project definition) concentrates on the identification of end users requirements (needs analysis), including the configuration of EUCISE 2020 national connections and the definition of services. COM underlined that the term "node" is misleading and should be avoided since the aim of the project is not to set-up a system.

- Work package 5 (Standardization and intellectual property rights) current activity is focusing on the following tasks:

  - Study the current baseline of standards which will possibly be used to set up the EUCISE 2020 prototype. This study will be handed out to WP4 to establish the technical specifications.

  - Assessment of the legal framework ruling the intellectual property rights (IPR) and definition of an IPR strategy for the project results.

Besides, Mrs Matarazzi announced that an information day targeting the industry will take place in July or September to present the concept of EUCISE 2020 call for tender.

9. **CISE INFORMATION NEEDS AND SERVICES WORKSHOPS**

COM presented a proposal to organize workshops with national authorities in order to raise awareness on CISE and start reflections on how it could support their operational activity from an end-user perspective.

In complementarity with the on-going technical developments of CISE within the EUCISE 2020 project, starting to work on the uptake of this interoperability solution to enhance data sharing in real life conditions and provide added-value to national authorities is a major objective.

Operational experts supported by IT specialist in charge of the legacy information systems are key participants for these workshops, which should remain small-scale meetings to facilitate discussions. The involvement of MSEsG representatives in the workshops organization is instrumental to identify the relevant contact persons in national authorities.

The workshops would mainly focus on the presentation of CISE capabilities (information flows enabled by CISE) and main technical features by the COM, followed by interactive

exchanges on the information services national authorities would be interested in (both as data provider and consumer), from an operational perspective.

The expected outcome of the workshops would be a better understanding by national authorities of what CISE is and can do, as well as a first identification of areas of interest for cross-sectoral and cross-border data exchange. This mapping of needs and priorities could later on pave the way towards the establishment of data-sharing agreements among national authorities.

Regarding the organisational aspects, workshops could take place by the end of 2016. A two days workshop, possibly encompassing different thematic groups held back to back, is envisaged for each sea-basin.

An adequate preparation of workshops will be carried out by the COM with MS to pre-identify the areas of interest of national authorities and hence focus the discussions during the workshops. Input from MS and national authorities is very much welcomed at this stage.

SP, PT and IT expressed interest to contribute to the process. DE underlined the need to work consistently with the project EUCISE 2020. IT stressed the importance of the regional approach. Referring to the current situation in the Mediterranean basin, EEAS recommended considering starting the CISE workshops in this sea-basin.

10. CISE HANDBOOK

COM delivered an update on the state of play and next steps of development of the CISE handbook.

COM recalled that the handbook will be the reference e-document on CISE. Its main aim is to provide national authorities operational and IT experts with practical guidance on how to use CISE, i.e. to set up connections within this interoperability environment in order to benefit from additional data-exchange with other authorities.

As announced by the last COM Communication on CISE (8th July 2014), the handbook will be drafted by the COM in close cooperation with MS and will be made available by end 2016. TAG and MSEsG will be closely involved in the drafting. A first draft, still including incomplete sections, should be made available by end 2015.

The handbook will take into account the outcome of the preparatory projects BlueMassmed, Marsuno, CoopP, Incubator, and will be developed in interaction with EUCISE 2020.

The COM presented the draft handbook outline. The aim of this outline is to aggregate all the issues which the handbook will have to address in order to be able to start the drafting. The architecture of sections and subsections as well as the headings will be subject to revision and improvement along the drafting.

The draft outline is attached to the minutes. COM asked MS to provide possible comments by end June, especially if there is a need to highlight missing issues.

FRONTEX underlined the importance of the section related to data quality management and explained that this issue was instrumental within EUROSUR.

Pasi Staff (TAG) emphasized that the handbook should be a full-fledged reference document, providing clear answers to national authorities. He recommended to take into

account the existing documentation on SUCBAS and MARSUR and underlined that operational procedures should be covered.

EDA stressed the fact that the handbook should focus on the "what" and provide clear indications on how to make use of CISE.

PT underlined that the handbook should be useful on a day to day basis and advocated to cover the issue of CISE benefits and overall assurance. The latter part should describe the features ensuring the trustworthiness of CISE.

11. CISE INTEROPERABILITY CALLS 2014 & 2015

Following the presentations delivered during the last MSEsG meeting, the COM updated the participants on the 2014 and the forthcoming 2015 call for proposals to support IT interoperability improvements projects led by national authorities.

These calls are funded under the EMFF direct management enveloppe, which allocates specific resources to support the integration of maritime surveillance in MS. Funding can be granted to projects presented by national authorities in the frame of yearly calls for proposals launched by the COM and implemented by EASME.

Projects must be related to the improvement of national legacy systems to set up additional cross-sectoral data sharing, at national level and possibly across borders. Preparatory studies on data sharing needs and/or technical aspects as well as IT developments are eligible under these calls.

Projects covering a single maritime surveillance sector (i.e. without any cross-sectoral dimension) or deriving from the implementation of EU legislation are ineligible.

A first call for proposals has been published in December 2014 with a deadline for proposals end March 2015. The indicative amount per project was ranging from 250 000 to 500 000 euros. Eight proposals have been received and are currently under selection process. The signature of the grant agreements is expected to take place in October 2015.

For 2015, another call for proposals will be published in November (tentative date).

Beate GMINDER

Head of Unit

c.c.:   Ms. L. Evans, Ms. A. Kordecka, Mr. E. Penas Lado, Mr. S. Depypere, Mr. B. Friess, Mr H. Gambs, Ms. V. Laine, Ms. V. Veits, Mr. King,
Mr. H. Siemers, desk officers D1 (DG MARE), Mr. A. Inotai (CAB VELLA)
Member States Expert Sub-group on Integrated Maritime Surveillance (MSESG),
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Members,
Inter-Service Sub-Group on Integrated Maritime Surveillance,
Permanent Representations of Member States to the EU,
Maritime Policy Member States' Experts Group,
European Parliament