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MEETING REPORT

Summary and conclusions

A very productive meeting which aimed at informing the Member States on the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) related developments and discussing the future implementation of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE), based on an approach proposed by the Commission. The meeting was chaired by DG MARE (Christos ECONOMOU).

CISE

The most substantial point of the agenda was the discussion on the Commission proposal concerning the approach for CISE implementation "CISE in the context of 3 layers of information exchange for maritime surveillance". Aiming to ensure coherence and complementarity between mandatory and non-mandatory data exchange mechanisms, the approach promotes the idea of enhancing interoperability and information sharing on 3 layers: 1) between EU agencies (mandatory), 2) between EU agencies and Member State authorities (mandatory), and 3) between and within Member States (voluntary). In other words, this approach updates the CISE vision to take into account the Inter-agency cooperation on European Coastguard functions and other EU-wide sectorial developments, but it leaves up for further discussions with Member States essential aspects of the 3rd layer such as the governance, the operational implementation of CISE building upon the EUCISE 2020 results and the technical support of the voluntary data exchange environment. Commission also proposes EMSA to support Member States in coordinating the operational and technical aspects of CISE implementation and the future day-to-day operations.

Commission also informed that, in 2018, it will launch a review process to assess the CISE development and clarify the necessary implementation actions, on which basis it will examine the necessity of taking a policy initiative.

In their interventions, Member State representatives highlighted the enduring relevance of the CISE initiative and the importance of building on its extensive work and relevant achievements so far. They welcomed the Commission proposal to implement CISE in coherence with the existing information exchange mechanisms to ensure complementarity

and added value, and stated their interest to contribute to the further refinement of relevant aspects such as the governance of the 3rd layer (including the role of EMSA in it) and the contribution of the EUCISE2020 in enabling a successful implementation and relevance of the data exchange.

In response, MARE stressed that for a suitable implementation, a coherent CISE governance would need to take into account the mandatory info exchanges under EU law and the Agencies know-how, the results/ recommendations of the EUCISE2020 and the strategic importance of the civil-military exchange in a maritime security context. Moreover, it suggested that funding to support CISE implementation at national level is already foreseen in many of the Operational Programmes of the EMFF (through shared management) and MS have been encouraged to explore this option with their specialised national authorities.

The co-ordinator of the EUCISE 2020 project, Ms Carolina Matarazzi, presented the latest developments and the main actions and communication events for the last phase of the project (validation), planned to be performed between February and July 2018. She also stressed, on behalf of the participating Member State authorities, the consortium's preoccupation to provide useful inputs to the definition of concrete step towards CISE implementation after the end of the project. Member States supported this idea and suggested that the project should issue its recommendations as early as possible in the definition process of CISE implementation, to ensure that MS will uptake of the tested solutions and make use of the project network for operational purposes.

FR and BE provided a short overview of their IT interoperability projects, funded by the EMFF, planned to start in 2018. Adding to the 10 ongoing national projects, these 3 new projects also aim to develop an enhanced interoperability between different surveillance systems at national level, in line with CISE objectives. Member States highlighted the usefulness of the Commission's support to national efforts towards enhanced interoperability and to ensure compatibility between national developments and the overall CISE cross-border network developed by the EUCISE2020.

EU MARITIME SECURITY STRATEGY

The Commission provided an overview of the approach chosen for the revision of the EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan. A draft Action plan is expected to be presented at the next FOP meeting (February). The upcoming Council Presidency (BG) thanked the Commission for the presentation and announced its intention to adopt the revised AP before the end of its mandate. Participants to the meeting also suggested that the Action Plan should include a reference to NGOs' activities in the maritime domain and should also reflect developments related to the Permanent Structured Cooperation.

The Commission also reported on the implementation of the Inter agency co-operation on CGF and highlighted that the closing conference of the pilot project held in Lisbon on June, 2nd had demonstrated the success, so far, of this new legislative framework. EMSA further emphasised that the agencies have signed among them a Tripartite Working Arrangement and that enhanced synergies are now ongoing. It also mentioned the concrete results of the inter-agency cooperation such as the integrated information services produced and provided by EMSA to Member States with support from the other agencies, the provision of a multipurpose drone capacity to EU agencies and Member States, the co-ordination and sharing of inspection and surveillance platforms during joint operational activities, as well as the ongoing work on data mining and behaviour monitoring and the need to add intelligence to platforms. The Commission also referred to the ongoing work on the

development of the handbook on Coastguard functions, as required by the legislative framework. Several representatives intervened to welcome this process while underlining the need to closely involve Member States in it to ensure that services provided correspond to the needs of end users.

JRC presented the Maritime Security Research Agenda to the group, which was developed in line with Action 5.2.4 of the EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan. The document is the outcome of dedicated discussions and two workshops involving end-user authorities, research industry, Member States, European Commission, EDA and EEAS. The agenda was planned to be distributed to Member States (Friends of Presidency) in the coming weeks.

Conclusion (Next steps): The Commission will continue to refine the approach proposed to facilitate CISE implementation and invited MS to further provide their positions. A more consolidated implementation approach will be presented in a dedicated MSEsG meeting in late June/beginning of July 2018. The Commission will also continue to keep the MS informed about revision process of the EUMSS AP and on further developments on the Coastguard cooperation.

DETAILED MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was attended by representatives of BE, BG, DE, ES, EST, FR, FI, GR, IE, IT, NL, PL, PT¹, NO, SE, SL and UK as well as of the SGC, EEAS, Commission DGs (MOVE, HOME, TAXUD and JRC) EMSA, EASME, EUMS, EDA, EUROPOL, MAOC, and Wise Pens (WP). (Annex 1)

All presentations made during the meeting are available for download on the Maritime Forum: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1065>

Part 1. Common Information Sharing Environment for the EU maritime domain (CISE)

1.1. EUCISE2020 POV project

The consortium coordinator, Ms Carolina Matarazzi, provided a very comprehensive presentation on the **EUCISE 2020 project state of play**. She described the latest developments in each working group and the ongoing complex work with national authorities to install the hardware and software for the Site Acceptance Test (SAT).

Ms Matarazzi reminded that the initial integration testing period (November 17 – April 18) has been delayed by two months, due to unforeseen national procurement procedures. The new planning foresees that three MS will start the integration testing in January whereas others will join in from end February on (involving authorities from all sectors); a separate

¹ Portugal was not physically present in the meeting but it provided a note concerning its position on CISE implementation which was tabled at the meeting. The content of the note has been summarised along with the other countries interventions in the text of the minutes.

validation will be performed on the classified network involving at least four Member states.

She mentioned that work is ongoing within the project to finalise an agreement on a number of "open points" that need to be included in the final recommendations, such as the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) of the software produced by the selected contractor (based on the specification developed by the EUCISE2020 experts), the governance model and the maintenance of the infrastructure after the project.

The coordinator also highlighted, in response to various questions, that the legal aspects and options concerning the types of data to be shared are thoroughly examined by the POV and that a full assessment of the results of the validation phase will be made available at the end of the project, to support the future CISE operational exchanges.

Member states reiterated the need to enable maintenance of the EUCISE2020 network, interoperability solutions and data exchanges beyond the end of the project, to ensure their progressive consolidation and MS uptake and commitment.

The Wise Pens representative appreciated very much the project strive to preserve CISE principles (i.e. voluntary and decentralized data exchange, responsibility to share, etc.) agreed upon by all participating Member States and suggested the necessity for the EUCISE 2020 project to include in its recommendations a cost-benefit analysis in order to consolidate the concrete added value of CISE.

The Netherlands, as a state not involved in EUCISE 2020, suggested that the Commissions implementation plans after the project are awaited in order to facilitate national decisions with regard to possible future involvement (investments).

MARE thanked the coordinator and the authorities involved in the project and confirmed that the work and the results of the EUCISE2020 are closely followed by the Commission as they are considered instrumental in facilitating the operational implementation of CISE.

1.2. Next steps on the CISE implementation

The main point of the agenda was the discussion on the **draft concept paper regarding the implementation of CISE**, presented by the Commission - "CISE in the context of 3 layers of information exchange for maritime surveillance". Stressing the need for coherence and complementarity between mandatory and non-mandatory data exchange systems, MARE presented an approach which promotes the idea of enhancing interoperability and information sharing on 3 layers:

- Layer 1: between EU agencies (mandatory)
- Layer 2: between EU agencies and MS authorities (mandatory)
- Layer 3: among and within MS (voluntary) – basically CISE

This approach updates the CISE vision to take into account the Inter-agency Cooperation on European Coast guard functions (CGF) and other EU-wide sectorial systems, regulated by EU law. It differentiates and opens up for further discussions and agreement with MS the essential aspects of the 3rd layer such as the governance, the operational implementation of the CISE as from the end of EUCISE 2020, and the technical support of the data exchange platform. The Commission also proposed that the operational coordination between Member States authorities, the transition to data exchange operations and the day-to-day technical maintenance of these operations within CISE could be supported by EMSA – in line with its

central role in data exchange in the Inter-agency cooperation on European Coastguard functions. This would be subject to the activation, by the EMSA board, of the CISE "ancillary task" under the EMSA funding regulation.

Furthermore, the Commission informed that, in 2018, it will launch a review process to assess the CISE developments so far and identify suitable implementation actions, on which basis it will examine the necessity of taking a policy initiative.

In their interventions Member States representatives highlighted the enduring relevance of the CISE initiative seeking to enable MS authorities to exchange, across sectors and borders, relevant information when needed, hence contributing the necessary "intelligence building" (FR, DE, FI)

They welcomed and appreciated the Commission proposal to implement CISE in coherence and complementarity with mandatory information exchanges. Member States also suggested that further refinement of this approach would be necessary to clarify essential elements such as the grouping of the systems per each layer and their governance, the relationship between the three layers (i.e. compatible or distinct systems/ governances) and the governance of the 3rd layer, including the responsibility to share policy attached to it. This clarification, to be also achieved with the support of the Member States inputs to the concept paper, should nevertheless contribute to the main purpose of information sharing on maritime surveillance across the European Union which is to improve the safety and security of the EU maritime domain and its citizen. (BG, DE, FR, FI, ES, IE, IT, NL, PT and WP)

MS supported the idea that an EU agency (EMSA) would be the suitable enabler for CISE operational and technical coordination (including the support to validation and security of data exchanges), especially as the CISE governance will be a sensitive issue. However, given the number of national ministries that should be involved in different levels (political, operational and technical) that need to be governed for an operational CISE, they pointed out that the MS representatives in the Board of EMSA represent only one sector. They also suggested that an EU agency involvement should not affect the Member States primary role in managing / deciding on the information exchange within the environment. (BG, DE, FR, FI, ES, IE, IT, NL, PT and WP)

MS also stressed the importance of duly taking into account the EUCISE 2020 work and its upcoming results (tested solutions) to best support a valuable operational implementation of CISE. The demonstration events can therefore be used to prove the added value. Moreover, they highlighted the need to put in place suitable actions, at the EU and MS levels (i.e. an implementation plan), to ensure the necessary follow-up/transition after the end of the project (mid 2018) towards an operational CISE by 2020. (DE, FR, FI, IE, PT)

MS also highlighted the relevance of the national projects on IT interoperability funded under the EMFF which have contributed considerably to strengthening the cooperation between MS authorities and raising the awareness concerning the role of interoperability in information sharing. Furthermore they became important building blocks within the overall CISE architecture, directly supporting the creation of national nodes necessary to connect to CISE. (BG, FR, FI, PT)

Participants also suggested that the European Coastguard Functions Forum (ECGFF) could also contribute to the overall CISE implementation. (DE, IE, FI, FR)

The EU agencies interventions supported the Commission strive for complementarity in support of CISE implementation. The EDA reminded the Council Conclusions on Global Maritime Security encouraging the involvement of relevant agencies in the further development of a shared situational awareness and the role of MARSUR in support of CSDP while the EUROPOL and MAOC suggested their interest in using the future CISE platform to improve the quantity and quality of data for analysis purposes.

DG TAXUD also stated that further clarifications of the Commission approach to CISE implementation are needed in order to understand the expectations towards the customs sector, especially as customs systems are already well-developed, interconnected and are being further improved to cover the needs of information exchange between MS customs authorities, laid down in the Union legislation. Moreover, this clarification should help defining the scope of the initiatives/legislation that it covers and information that is proposed to be exchanged, the tools that are proposed to be used for such exchange (including clarification on the role of Agencies and EUCISE2020 in the envisaged approach), as well as the handling of commercially sensitive and classified data, where confidentiality principles should be fully respected.

MOVE (B. SELLIER) confirmed its contribution to the concept paper and the envisaged support to CISE implementation, especially through facilitating EMSA's involvement. It reminded that although the original responsibilities of the agency were mainly related to safety of the sea transport, today it provides complex surveillance services in support of maritime security.

MARE confirmed that the implementation of CISE to best benefit from the work done so far is important for the Commission and that a further refinement of the envisaged implementation actions will be performed, particularly regarding the governance of the 3rd layer. Further feedback from Member States on the concept paper would be welcomed in that context.

It stressed that putting in place a coherent CISE governance framework is also a priority. It would need to take into account, among others, the mandatory info exchanges under EU law and the EU agencies know-how, the results/ recommendations of the EUCISE2020, the strategic importance of the civil-military exchanges and the usefulness of CISE in a maritime security context. The review of CISE is intended to help clarifying all these aspects.

Moreover, MARE suggested that important support to facilitate CISE implementation at national level can be obtained by accessing the available funds under the Operational Programmes of the EMFF (shared management). MS have been encouraged to explore already this option with their specialised national authorities, as the procedures to access these funds are lengthy.

1.3 National projects funded under the 2016-17 Commission call for proposals supporting IT interoperability improvements

FR and BE presented the scope and objectives of their **IT interoperability projects** funded by the EMFF, to be started in 2018. Adding to the ten ongoing national projects, these three new projects also aim to develop an enhanced interoperability between different surveillance systems at national level, mainly using CISE interoperability solutions. While the French projects focus on developing useful information services to be shared with other authorities within the CISE network, the Belgian one aims at interconnecting all national

authorities and their surveillance systems through a single information exchange environment.

MS highlighted again the usefulness of the Commission's support to national efforts towards increased interoperability and information exchange while ensuring compatibility between these national developments and the overall CISE cross-border and cross-sector network developed by the EUCISE2020. They suggested that additional projects could be useful to support CISE implementation efforts in MS. (BG, FR, FI, PT)

Part 2. EU MARITIME SECURITY STRATEGY (EUMSS)

2.1. Review of the EU MSS Action Plan

The Commission (Dora BARREIRA RAMOS) provided an overview of the approach chosen for the revision of the EU Maritime Security strategy Action Plan. A draft Action plan is expected to be presented to the Council (Friends of Presidency Group - FoP) in February. The upcoming Council Presidency (BG) thanked the Commission for the presentation and announced its intention to adopt the revised AP before the end of its mandate. Participants to the meeting also suggested that the Action Plan should include references to the European Coastguard Functions Forum and NGOs' activities in the maritime domain and should somehow reflect developments related to the Permanent Structured Cooperation.

2.2. Update on the EU Inter-agency cooperation on European Coastguard functions

The Commission also reported on the implementation of the Inter agency co-operation on CGF and highlighted that the closing conference of the pilot project held in Lisbon on June, 2nd had demonstrated the success so far of this new legislative framework.

In its intervention EMSA recalled that the agencies have signed among them a Tripartite Working Arrangement setting the framework of their cooperation. Concrete results of the inter-agency cooperation are for example enhanced information exchange through which EMSA is able to provide more integrated information services with data from the other agencies to Member States, the provision of a multipurpose drone capacity to EU agencies and Member States, as well as co-ordination and sharing of inspection and surveillance platforms during joint operational activities. Reference was also made to the ongoing work on data mining and behaviour monitoring and the need to add intelligence to platforms. Several MS intervened to welcome this process while underlining the need to involve closely Member States on it to ensure that services provided correspond to the needs of end users. The Commission also referred to the ongoing work on the development of the handbook on Coastguard functions, as required by the legislative framework.

2.3. EU Maritime Security Research Agenda

JRC (Harm GREIDANUS) presented the Maritime Security Research Agenda to the group, which was developed in line with Action 5.2.4 of the EU Maritime Security Strategy Action Plan. The document is the outcome of a round of discussions by a network of experts composed of end-user authorities, research industry, Member States, European Commission, EDA and EEAS. The agenda will be circulated to Member States (through the FoP) in the coming weeks.

Conclusion (Next steps)

The Commission will continue to refine the approach proposed to facilitate CISE implementation and has invited MS to further provide their positions. A more consolidated implementation approach will be presented in a dedicated MSEsG meeting in late June/beginning of July 2018.

The Commission will also continue to keep the MS informed about the revision process of the EUMSS AP and the further developments with the Coastguard cooperation.