

TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II

Beneficiary Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan



Report

Steering Committee Meeting I

21 January 2015

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TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II

Contract number: 2012/308-311

Beneficiary Countries: TRACECA Region

	Name	Date
Written by:	Albert Bergonzo	28 January 2015
Approved by:		

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Summary

Name of the Expert:	Albert Bergonzo
Expert position:	Team Leader
Mission number:	
Mission start date:	20 January 2015
Mission end date:	22 January 2015
Number of working days:	1 working days, 2 travel day
Mission objective:	Delivery of the project's Steering Committee Meeting
Main activities:	Steering Committee Meeting
Main results:	Steering Committee Meeting outcomes
Programme of next mission:	
Annexes (documents produced during the mission):	List of participants, Agenda, Planning, presentations



Report:

The first Steering Committee Meeting of the TRACECA Maritime Safety & Security II Project was organized in cooperation with the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and was held in Istanbul on Wednesday 21 January 2015. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the project's achievements and way forward for 2015, present the activities of the European Maritime Safety Agency and the latest policy developments of the European Union Maritime Policy and transport cooperation in the region. It was also an opportunity for the partners to present progress achieved in the implementation of the project's objectives.

Delegates from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine attended the meeting. The list of participants is included in Annex I

First morning session

EMSA first presented the latest EU policy developments for maritime safety and security. The presentation detailed the cohesive system put in place by the third maritime package of directives on Flag State Implementation, Port State Control and Vessel Traffic Monitoring. Regarding seafarers' training and certification, the EU has put in place a system of recognition of certificates issued by third countries. In the project's regions, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey and Ukraine are currently recognized by the EU.

The TRACECA Maritime Project's Team presented the achievements so far, in the various domains covered, with a reminder of the overall objective of making shipping safer, more secure and environment friendly in the Black and Caspian Sea. The project's approach of mixing regional and national activities in order to tailor the assistance to the partners needs while fostering fruitful exchanges was emphasized, as was the role of Bulgaria and Romania in the share of experience as EU Member States in the region.

EMSA then described its program of activities implemented directly within the framework of the project and of the European Neighbourhood Policy / Eastern Partnership. These activities will focus on accidents investigation and training of accident investigators, Port State Control in the Black Sea MoU, traffic monitoring, CleanSeaNet services, and marine pollution response. The planning of activities will extend until mid-June 2016.

Second morning sessions

In order to foster participation, and to allow covering a greater range of topics in the single-day format of the meeting, two separate roundtables were organized, based on topics considered of prime importance for the near future. One table was devoted to implementation of the maritime transport regulations included in the Association



Agreements that several project partners have signed with the EU, the other was devoted to the IMO Member States Audit Scheme and partners' need to prepare for it.

I) Integration of Acquis Communautaire

. Integration of Acquis Communautaire, as related to maritime transport, is in line with the project's objective of promoting the further alignment of the maritime safety and security legislation of the beneficiary countries with the relevant EU legislation in the field. For these three countries, all EU Directives part of the Third Maritime Safety Package are included in the Agreement.

Mrs. Anna Mihneva-Natova, Director European Union, International Relations and Projects Directorate, Bulgarian Maritime Administration, and Mr. Paul Bogdan Doncea, Inspector, Romanian Naval Authority, presented the process of reform of their maritime authorities in the framework of integration of their respective countries in the EU, including such tasks as revision and alignment of the national legislation, drafting and adoption of new legislation, putting in place a Quality Management System for proper implementation and application of legislation. Impact on integration of Acquis Communautaire on regional and international cooperation. A discussion ensued, where the partners presented their own plans and status of integration of relevant legislation. The stages of integration vary depending on the countries. Plans for reform of maritime administrations are sometimes delayed due to national political processes. Georgia proposed its assistance to other partners and the Project will facilitate the corresponding relevant actions, in line with the project's objectives and activities.

Activities delivered in the framework of the project always cover the EU perspective and the project's indirect beneficiaries presence is valuable for the perspective it provides to the participants of the project training sessions.

The project takes into account the evolutions and experiences of the beneficiaries and supports them. In this respect, national work will, where relevant, take the obligations of the Agreements, where relevant, into account.

II) Preparations to the IMO Audit Scheme

The roundtable on the Preparations to the IMO Member States Audit Scheme (IMSAS) opened with an introductory presentation about the scheme by Mr. Ivaylo Valev from the IMO.



In his presentation Mr. Valev introduced the motivation leading to the audit scheme as well as its history and evolution. He then focused on the current state, explaining the current transitional period between the voluntary and the mandatory phase of the scheme. Following a decision of the IMO Assembly's 28th session, during this transitional period the standards used for auditing are already the same than the standards to be used from 1 January 2016, the official start date of the mandatory scheme. All these standards have been agreed by the IMO Member States during Assembly 28 in December 2013. Mr. Valev's presentation concluded with the brief introduction of the time and audit schedule developed by the IMO Secretary General for the time after 1 January 2016.

In this context the roundtable discussed the question of enforcement powers of the IMO, on one hand in terms of conducting the audit but on the other hand in particular on possibilities to enforce consequences for poor performance. While there was consensus that it will be difficult to enforce a formal sanctions system, other options such as a higher level of transparency of the results were discussed as a means to motivate IMO Member States striving for improvement.

The second topic discussed by the roundtable was the role of IMSAS in the EU regulatory framework. The participants looked in particular at Directive 2009/21/EC on compliance with flag State requirements requesting EU Member States in Article 7 to participate in the voluntary scheme and in particular to publish the outcome of the audit. It was also noted, that this Article contains an expiry note in view of the forthcoming mandatory status.

Based on the introduction of the scheme, subsequently Mr. Assheuer introduced the project's concept to support partner countries in their efforts in preparation of the project. He in particular highlighted the change in the approach with the move from the voluntary to the mandatory scheme. While in the beginning, the idea was to support in particular partner countries volunteering for the audit, this changed with the end of the possibility to volunteer to a general offer of the project to support in particular countries having their audit scheduled in a timely vicinity to the end of the duration of the project. Georgia, as the partner country taking advantage of the earlier approach, presented their preparatory phase highlighting also the project's contributions.

Finally the roundtable had a closer look at the time schedule to be expected based on the IMO Secretary General paper presented to the IMO Council as C 112/INF.3. It was noted that due to a number of IMO Member States currently queuing for a voluntary audit in 2015, postponed audits of Member States having not ratified any relevant IMO Instruments or land locked Member States having no maritime activities a significant shortening of the expected audit time can be expected.



While the basic effect is obvious and this can accumulate to more or less a full year over the entire period, it was not possible to come to more specific answers as in particular not all organisational and resource questions have yet been solved.

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First afternoon session

The main part of the afternoon was devoted to the latest developments in the beneficiary countries. The delegates had the opportunity to express their requests for further assistance. Expressed needs are briefly summed up below.

Armenia reiterated its intention to set up a ship register under its flag. It was reminded that a preliminary mission had taken place in 2013 to examine the viability of the concept and the assistance that the TRACECA Maritime project could provide. A formal proposal was submitted to the Armenian Authorities which did not generate a response. It was recalled that the project is ready to provide further assistance but needs have to be concretely expressed to the project team.

Azerbaijan mentioned the positive results obtained through a first EU-funded twinning program that started in 2012 aiming at implementing the requirements of EU legislation in the maritime field and IMO Conventions into Azerbaijan national law. The twinning resulted in a new law on ports of the Republic of Azerbaijan together with relevant by-laws and regulations. A second twinning project "Support to the Maritime Administration to improve liability in Maritime Transport in the Republic of Azerbaijan" is in process. The project team recommends building on the outcomes of the first twinning to prepare Azerbaijan to IMSAS.

Georgia described its recent reform program and implementation status. The meeting got informed of the IMSAS preparation assistance provided by the project and expressed future needs. These refer to assistance to implement the corrective action plan following the voluntary IMO Audit, training of accident investigators; support for establishing a VTS, support in regard of MARPOL compliance and enforcement mechanisms. Some of these requests will be covered by regional project's activities implemented by EMSA or by the project's team. Other are more of a national nature and their feasibility can be assessed in the framework of the national work group for Georgia.

Kazakhstan informed participants on its recent reform of the Maritime Administration. A national work group was set up in 2014 by the project to understand the context and present options for a new structure. The needs expressed relate to preparation for the IMSAS, training on Flag State Implementation, protection of the marine environment and in particular effective implementation of MARPOL Annex VI for the prevention of air pollution from ships. Training on these topics will be delivered by the project office.



Moldova detailed its program of reforms in the maritime transport sector, informed about planned Convention ratifications in the fields of protection of the marine environment and working and living conditions for seafarers. These evolutions are challenged by lack of qualified personnel and needs for national regulatory improvements. These challenges translate into need requests which the project will support.

Turkey, the host country, presented the performance improvements of the Maritime Authorities over the recent period and detailed how it has achieved its current state of compliance and discharge of its obligations related to the international regulations. Needs expressed are linked mainly to Port State Control and more specifically Black Sea MoU matters. Relations with the Black Sea MoU are within the remit of EMSA.

Ukraine is one the partners having signed an Association Agreement with the European Union. It has now embarked on a reform of its government bodies, in line with the commitments taken under the bilateral Association Agreement. The salient points of the plan for reform are to set up a new body, implementing a Quality Management System, preparing for the IMSAS. The project team emphasized that these points are fully in line with the project's objectives and that it is fully committed to assist Ukraine, also by facilitating exchanges with other partners.

Conclusion

The first Steering Committee of the EU-funded TRACECA Maritime Safety & Security II Project was a good opportunity for fruitful exchanges. Direct participation of representatives from maritime administrations was a factor in keeping debates focused. The co-organization of the event with EMSA and the presence of a delegate from the IMO allowed promoting the project objectives of effective enforcement of international and EU maritime regulations from different perspectives. The presence of indirect project beneficiaries brought added value in sharing of experiences. Partners had the possibility to express needs and this will help to fine-tune project implementation. The meeting also confirmed the project course. Priorities given to IMO Audit preparations and integration of Acquis Communautaire will help ensure sustainability of project's results.

It is recommended that a second Committee Meeting takes place in early 2016.



List of Annexes

- I) Meeting conclusions
- II) Meeting agenda
- III) List of participants



Conclusions

1st Steering Committee Meeting of the EU-financed TRACECA Maritime Safety & Security II Project

(EuropeAid/133051/C/SER/multi - Contract number: 2012/308-311)

**Organized in association with
the European Maritime Safety Agency
Istanbul, Turkey, 21 January 2015**

The first meeting of the Steering Committee was held in Istanbul, Turkey on the 21st of January 2015. The meeting was attended by representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The participants:

1. Acknowledged the progress made in the implementation of the TRACECA Maritime Safety & Security II Project;
2. Welcomed the direct involvement of EMSA in the delivery of some of the project's activities.
3. Welcomed the provision of EMSA's tools and services aiming to enhance port State control inspections standards and beneficiaries' capability to monitor and respond to oil spills at sea;
4. Noted the beneficiaries' input during the meeting, and in particular the report on progress achieved in the fulfillment of the project's objectives;



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5. Noted that further progress is needed and in this respect renew their commitment of further ratification and implementation of international maritime safety and security conventions in order to make shipping safer, more secure and environment friendly;

 6. Welcomed in this regard the program of regional and national assistance to be delivered by the project in 2015, in particular on the topics of approximation with EU legislation and preparation to the IMO Member States Audit Scheme.



IV) Agenda

**TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II Activity 1.1
Project Steering Committee
Istanbul, Turkey, 21 January 2015**

AGENDA

8:30 / 09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00 / 09:15	Opening address, introduction of participants	Project
09:15 / 09:45	Latest developments in EU maritime safety and security policy	EMSA
09:45 / 10:15	Outcomes of the TRACECA Maritime II Project	Project
10:15 / 10:45	EMSA's implementation of the TRACECA Maritime II Project	EMSA
10:45 / 11:15	Coffee-break	
11:15 / 12:30	Roundtable I: Integration of Acquis Communautaire in Maritime Transport and experience from Black Sea EU MS Bulgaria & Romania	EMSA + Project + Beneficiaries
	Roundtable II: Preparations to the IMO Audit Scheme	EMSA + Project+ IMO + Beneficiaries
12:30/13:45	Lunch	
13:45 / 15:15	Latest developments in the beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
15:15/ 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 / 17:00	Latest developments in the beneficiaries	Beneficiaries
17.00 / 17:20	Project activities for 2015	EMSA + Project
17:20 / 17:30	Adoption of conclusions and closure of the meeting	Project



V) List of participants

**TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II Activity 1.1
1st Steering Committee meeting
Istanbul, Turkey, 21 January 2015**

PARTICIPANTS

	Invitee	Position and Organisation	Telephone	e-mail	Post address
1.	Ms. Armine Astvatsatryan	Expert of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Programms, Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia	00374 94 571087 Fax: 0037410 590092	arminka55777@mail.ru	28, Nalbandyan Street , 0010, Yerevan, Armenia
2.	Ms. Mane Fahradyan	Assistant of the Head of Staff, Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia	00374 55 305470 Fax: 0037410 590092	ardiniman@gmail.com	28, Nalbandyan Street , 0010, Yerevan, Armenia
3.	Mr. Farhad Mammadov	Head of the Law and International Relations Department, State Maritime Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan	+994502635415 Fax: 994124974406	farhad.mamedov@gmail.com	Khanlar street, 2B, Baku, 1003, Azerbaijan Republic
4.	Captain Zaza Makharadze	1st Deputy Director of the LEPL Maritime Transport Agency of the Ministry of Economy and	+995 (422) 2744 925/26)	Z.Makharadze@mta.gov.ge	23, Ninoshvili Str. Batumi City, Georgia



		Sustainable Development of Georgia			
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13.	Mrs. Anna Mihneva-Natova	Director European Union, International Relations and Projects Directorate, Bulgarian Maritime Administration	+35929300939 Fax: +35929300920	anna.natova@marad.bg	9, Dyakon Ignatiy Street, Sofia, Bulgaria
14.	Mr. Paul Bogdan Doncea	Inspector, Romanian Naval Authority	+40241616124 Fax: +40241616229	bdoncea@RNA.RO	Port Gate 1, Constanta, Romania
15.	Mr. Andrea Tassoni	Policy advisor to the Executive Director of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)	Tel: +351 21 1209 277	Andrea.TASSONI@emsa.europa.eu	
16.	Mr. Giuseppe Russo	Senior Project Officer, Department B Safety and Standards, EMSA	Tel: +351 21 1209 393	Giuseppe.RUSSO@emsa.europa.eu	

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VI) Presentations (in electronic format only)

01. Maritime Safety and Security in Azerbaijan
02. The Bulgarian Maritime Administration Experience in Integration of Acquis Communautaire in Maritime Transport
03. Presentation of the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia
04. Preparation for IMO Audit Scheme, Georgia
05. TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security case in Kazakhstan
06. Experience and Activities of Romanian Naval Authority
07. Safety, Security and Environmental Protection Standards, Turkey
08. Sectoral Programme for Maritime Safety 2014-2018 in Ukraine
09. EMSA's Implementation of the TRACECA Maritime II Project
10. Latest Developments in EU Maritime Safety Policy, EMSA
11. The IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS)
12. Project Activities in 2015
13. Project Outcomes