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Contract number : 2012/308-311

TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II

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



Mission Report

BSC Istanbul

29 November 2013

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Mission Report by

TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II

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	Name	Date
Written by:	Hartmut Rapp	29 November, 2013
Approved by:	Albert Bergonzo	04 December 2013

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Summary

Name of the Expert:	Hartmut Rapp
Expert position:	Safety of Navigation Expert
Mission number:	
Mission start date:	27 November 2013 (including travel)
Mission end date:	28 November 2013 (including travel)
Number of working days:	1 working day
Mission objective:	Discussion/update regarding Regional AIS Server
Main activities:	Meeting and discussion with Black Sea Commission about Regional AIS Server
Main results:	Update on Regional AIS Server status
Programme of next mission:	
Annexes (documents produced during the mission):	



Report:

The meeting took place on 28th November 2013 in the office of the Black Sea Commission (BSC) in Istanbul.

Participants from BSC Permanent Secretariat were

- Ms Irina Makarenko, Environment and Law Secretary/Administrative Assistant, and
- Kiril Iliev, IT & Administration Expert, Project Manager of the MONINFO Project.

Mr Kiril Iliev had worked in the MONINFO Project in various positions and was its last Project Manager as from December 2012, i.e. for the last month.

History and status of MONINFO Project

The project commenced in the beginning of 2010 and ceased at the end of 2012. An extension of the project beyond December 2012 was not granted, as its successful conclusion within a limited extension period was not anticipated by the EU.

The MoU for the establishment of the regional AIS server was finalised and according to Mr Iliev basically agreed upon by all members, with only one stumbling block: no agreement could be achieved on the location of the server. A further meeting to discuss that subject was planned for March 2013, but did not take place any more.

As no comprehensive solution to the server-problem could be seen towards the end of the project, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Georgia discussed the option to have initially a regional server on a smaller scale, only including those four countries and have the other two countries join later. However, as Bulgaria eventually withdrew from that idea it was abandoned.

During the project the EU opined that BSC should establish and manage the regional server. However, BSC did not have at its disposal sufficient funds, and hence this avenue was not pursued at that time. The subject was taken up again during this meeting. However, BSC does not believe that member states would increase their present contributions to the Commission.

No further initiatives have been taken since the closure of the project and no future activities are planned with regard to the regional server, except intensive networking with the member states in general regarding all tasks and obligations of BSC. This includes the AIS server, but present activities merely aim at keeping the subject going. According to BSC the members are only interested in national or bilateral matters, or trilateral at the most.

BSC promised to provide us with position paper on the MONINFO Project from November 2012 and on updated country profiles and project contacts in the member states.

BSC is extremely interested in having the regional server subject revived and expressed its readiness to provide support.



Conclusion and Recommendations

A prerequisite for an efficient regional AIS server would be full VTS/AIS coverage of all coastal areas in the Black Sea. This is not yet the case. While in Ukraine basically the entire coastline is under surveillance, coverage in Georgia is limited to the ports of Batumi, Poti and Kulevi, i.e. comprehensive coastal coverage is not available. Moreover, for the time being the VTS services in the Georgian ports are not recognized and VTS operators are not certified by the Georgian Maritime Transport Agency. VTS/AIS services in Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Russia have not been assessed in the course of this project, but are assumed to cover the national coastlines.

Following BSC's explanations it will be difficult to have a meaningful revival of the subject. Main points to be discussed and clarified at the very beginning would include the following:

1. Location and management of the server?
2. How can a neutral server management be achieved?
3. If the server would be managed by BSC, how can the costs be recovered from the member states and what would be the modalities?