

**SAFEMED III
Seminar for Mediterranean MoU Port State
Control Officers**

Lisbon, 16 – 19 June 2014

Summary Report

The Seminar for Mediterranean MoU (MEDMOU) Port State Control Officers (PSCOs) took place from 16 to 19 June 2014 at EMSA premises.

It was tailored on MEDMOU procedures and structured similarly to the seminars delivered by EMSA in the framework of the mandatory training policy adopted in the Paris MoU region with the aim to develop and maintain the competences of port state control officers of European region.

The seminar was attended by 17 participants from 6 SAFEMED III beneficiary countries which are also MEDMOU members, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia.

After the introductory tour de table and opening of the seminar, the first day started with general presentations of EMSA tasks, highlighting the technical expertise of the Agency, and of the SAFEMED III project, focusing on planned port state control regional and bilateral actions.

The general presentations were followed by a focus on Flag and Port State roles in the enforcement and implementation of the IMO instruments. Then a presentation on the existing Memoranda of Understanding around the world was delivered. Stress was put on the Paris MoU, the EU legislation on port state control and basic principles of the New Inspection Regime.

The core of the seminar was a simulated inspection exercise based on a complex case study related to all the steps to be followed during a port state control inspection.

Starting from the pre-boarding preparation to the verification of certificates and documents, decision on the type of inspections to be carried out, checks in the deck department and in the engine-room as well as finding out possible issues related to the safety management system (ISM). Participants were divided into groups composed by PSCOs from different countries. They were asked to work together and agree on the most appropriate MEDMOU

procedures to apply. This was followed by a plenary discussion between all groups coordinated by EMSA mentors on how to overcome challenges encountered during the vessel inspections.

Throughout the cases study the main principles and basic rules of port state control inspections in accordance with the Mediterranean MoU text, manual and relevant instructions were recalled, such as, for example, the principle of “No more favourable treatment”. Working together by PSCOs from different countries contributed not only to develop and maintain their technical skills but also to harmonise the application of the Memorandum’s procedures in the Mediterranean region.

During the seminar a session was dedicated to the MEDMOU inspection database (MEDSIS), Mr Omar Hassein, Director of the MEMOU Information Center was invited to deliver a lecture on MEDSIS functionalities. The participants were also informed about the internal functioning of the Med MoU (Committee, Secretariat and Information Centre). At this occasion the participants shared the challenges met in using the system and discussed potential improvements. In terms of comparison, Mr Paolo Majoli, Project Officer at EMSA, introduced THETIS, information system supporting inspection regime for port state control of the Paris MoU.

By the end of the fourth day of the seminar the participants expressed their satisfaction of the conducted course and specifically of the interactive approach adopted via the practical exercises. They also appreciated the working together with colleagues of other Administrations.