



European Maritime Safety Agency

## **Draft Workshop Report**

### **EU AIS Master Plan**

Held in Lisbon on: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008

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## 1. Background information

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At the request of the COSS Committee, the Commission tasked EMSA with organising a workshop with the participation of the Member States to discuss on the AIS master plan.

EMSA began preparations for the workshop in cooperation with the Commission and in consultation with a correspondence group of Member States technical experts from Denmark, Germany, Sweden, UK and the Netherlands. The group had met twice before the workshop, (in Copenhagen on 20 July and 12 October 07). They had also assisted in the preparation of the preliminary discussion paper, circulated to participants prior to the workshop.

The meeting was attended by delegations from **Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands (the), Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain and Sweden**. Mr. Urban Hallberg (DG TREN) and Mr. Ari Sorsaniemi (DG INFSO) attended on behalf of the European Commission. The list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.

A copy of the Agenda is included as **Annex 2**.

In addition to the speakers from EMSA, external expert speakers included (as listen in the agenda), Mr. Wim van der Heijden, Jens Kristian Jensen, Mr. Rolf Zetterberg and Mr. Stefan Bober.

Mr Lazaros Aichmalotidis of EMSA acted as chairman of the meeting.

Note: The main supporting document, the presentations and other related papers, can be accessed from: <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/end906.html>

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## 2. Workshop Objectives

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According to the COSS request, *“the AIS master plan should as a minimum include the following objectives:*

- *to minimize the number of shore-based AIS base stations;*
- *to establish co-operation between Member States and non Member States to avoid duplicated coverage;*
- *to establish a common standard for exchange of AIS information*
- *to establish a common standard for the use of binary messages within the Community”*

The workshop's objectives were widened because of Council Resolution of 1-2 October 2007, which recognises the value of the AIS networks as a source of data for the LRIT purposes and the role of the AIS master plan in this respect.

Germany and France representatives expressed concerns about the objective of the first bullet point above, claiming that according to the COSS debate, the workshop's objective is to get a general knowledge of shore based AIS stations

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and to establish a reliable coverage instead of "*minimizing the number of shore-based AIS base stations*".

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### 3. Workshop Programme

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#### **Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Emilio Martin Bauza, Head of Unit F, welcomed participants to the workshop. He reminded the EMSA role in technical cooperation, given greater prominence by EU institutions with monitoring responsibilities. He noticed that in order to support the technical work of the AIS master plan, EMSA will use its own Graphical Information System tool, with charts provided by the International Hydrographic Organisation.

#### **Opening address from the European Commission**

Mr. Urban Hallberg (DG TREN) referred to the objectives of the AIS master plan, emphasized the need for coordination at EU level and reminded that this work is a follow up to a COSS decision. He recognised that there was much expertise present to provide a useful background to the AIS master plan.

Mr. Ari Sorsaniemi (DG INFSO) provided a presentation of the policy background and groups involved in EU Radio Spectrum Policy, including the role of the ITU, the Radio Spectrum Committee, the Radio Spectrum Policy Group, MS and the Commission. He mentioned to a study currently in progress and the Radio Spectrum Policy Group Opinion on Public use of spectrum. The objectives of Spectrum Policy is to support EU by providing a coordinated approach to spectrum management and the removal of spectrum policy 'bottlenecks' to innovation.

The presentations provided were in accordance with the agenda and included the following subject areas:

- General assumptions and considerations
- Legal and technical requirements
- Current EU networks
- Potential threats
- Coordination at national level
- Coordination at EU level reservations
- AIS data exchange at regional or EU level
- Application of LRIT reporting in areas within AIS coverage.

On 25-1-08, Germany sent to EMSA comments to the preliminary discussion paper (see Annex III) and requested to be attached to the report.

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### 4. Conclusions

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The workshop was well received by the participants. The presentations were appreciated as very useful technical background, updates and as being generally

informative, especially taking into consideration that AIS is still relatively recent in its implementation and many Member States were still in the process of managing its configuration.

The EU AIS Master Plan was defined in the conclusions that were discussed and agreed as follows:

**1. AIS - opportunity and threat**

The mandatory introduction of shore-based AIS installations in accordance with Article 9 of the Directive (2002/59) gives the opportunity for significant improvements in available knowledge and awareness of EU waterways and vessel traffic situations for the Member State Authorities. The high load of AIS VDL can create potential threats to the secure and reliable functioning of AIS, if operated in an uncoordinated way.

**2. Need for an AIS master plan**

To implement regulation and recommendations from IMO, ITU and IALA, a coordinated approach is recommended in Europe for the management of the AIS Base Stations, taking the form of a plan (the so-called AIS Master Plan). The AIS Master Plan will be developed by the Commission, with the assistance of EMSA and in cooperation with the Member States based on the requirements of the COSS decisions and the Council Resolution on LRIT.

**3. Coordination at national level**

The Member States will be held responsible for the management of the Base stations, control of AIS networks, the integrity of the information transmitted from AIS Base stations and the misuse of AIS stations in general.

**4. Coordination at EU level**

The management of the AIS requires also coordination at EU level and the creation of a European AIS Master Plan that will be agreed among the MS. The plan may also include cooperation with neighbouring States. The development and continuous maintenance of an EU AIS Master Plan, at present is necessary for the optimised use of AIS functions. Coordination with inland AIS will also be sought.

**5. EU SSN AIS coordination group**

This AIS Master Plan could be managed by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States and with the assistance of EMSA. The formation of an EU SSN AIS coordination group (which falls within the remit of the existing SSN group) that will meet if required and resolve any coordination tasks regarding AIS management is recommended. The coordination could be supported by a central software tool, which can assist the Member State Authorities in their decision making.

**6. Development of a common EU AIS/LRIT network**

Establishment of a common EU AIS/LRIT network (integrated into SafeSeaNet) will create new opportunities for the Member States. Costs related to requesting LRIT data may be avoided when similar or more detailed information can be obtained through the EU AIS network.

## **7. AIS data quality**

Member States must work closely and in coordination to improve the quality of the AIS data by agreeing coordinated actions to be taken by all of the relevant Authorities (e.g. PSC, VTS, Radio Regulatory Authorities and NCAs).

## **8. Standards for AIS Data Exchange**

The group was informed about the standards for the exchange of AIS data, as defined in the STIRES study.

## **9. LRIT and AIS**

AIS is a valuable potential source for LRIT. It has the potential to contribute to:

- the avoidance of requesting other LRIT Data Centres for reports from non-EU flag vessels (on the basis of coastal State or port State); and
- not fitting (or not transmitting) LRIT when ships are covered by shore-based AIS.

## **10. Initial plan of action**

- Member States will designate/verify their NCA on AIS management by the end of [June 08] where necessary. Member States should appoint their national contact points to an EU SSN AIS coordination group. The contact point of the Member State will provide information or clarifications related to the AIS Master Plan by the end of [June 2008] where necessary.
- As a first step, Member States will validate to EMSA the information needed for drafting the AIS master plan [shore station identity (name, MMSI), position, antenna type and height, channel and FATDMA configuration] by [August 2008].
- EMSA will create an index of the AIS base stations of the Member States and visualise the AIS coverage (for different antenna heights) on a GIS by [August 2008].
- The AIS correspondence group will make an initial analysis for the FATDMA arrangements and present the results to the SSN AIS coordination group by [September 2008]. Based on the results, a new workshop will be held in [January/February 2009] to assess the situation and to define further actions.

Note: The dates given above are subject to COSS endorsement.

### **Annex:**

- I) List of participants
- II) Workshop Agenda

ANNEX I – List of Participants

AIS MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP 22-23.01.08  
ATTENDANCE LIST

Country	Title	Name	First Name	Organisation	E-mail	22/01/2008
Belgium	Mr	Maelberg	Yves	Flemish Maritime Administration	yves.maelbergh@mvw.vlaanderen.be	<i>[Signature]</i>
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*[Handwritten notes and signatures on the right side of the table, including names like Dimitrov, Sapiezanski, YANN, and various organizational affiliations.]*

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Speaker	Mr	van der Heijden	Wim	SMC	wvanderheijden@zonnet.nl
Speaker	Mr	Bober	Stefan	German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration	sbober@fvt.wsv.de
European Commission	Mr	Sorsaniemi	Ari	DG INFO Radio Spectrum Policy Unit	Ari.SORSANIEMI@ec.europa.eu

-- 4 -- Mr Hallberg Urban DUTTEN

**EMSA Participants :**

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## Annex II

### Agenda

#### AIS Master Plan Workshop 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008

##### Programme 22-01-2008

13:00	Registration and coffee	
13:30	Welcome address and approval of the agenda	Emilio Martin Bauza - EMSA
13:45	Input from the Commission	Urban Hallberg – DG TREN Ari Sorsaniemi – DG INFSO
14:15	Background of the AIS master plan workshop (AIS basic functions, COSS Committee and Council decision on LRIT, Workshop objective/AIS correspondence group) General assumptions and considerations (Definition of the AIS master plan, Structure of the report)	Lazaros Aichmalotidis - EMSA
14:40	Summary of the issue	Paul Wilkins - EMSA
15:15	Coffee break	
15:30	Legal and technical requirements	Wim van der Heijden - The Netherlands
16:15	Current EU AIS networks (Member States' AIS national networks, Regional networks, Commercial companies' networks)	Philippe Carreau - EMSA
16:40	Experiences from the Baltic	Jens Kristian Jensen - Denmark
17:30	End of meeting for the first day	

**Programme 23-01-2008**

09:00	Coffee	
09:30	Wrap up from the previous day	Lazaros Aichmalotidis - EMSA
09:45	Potential threats (Increasing number of AIS shore stations, Diversity of AIS applications, Increased number of AIS stations, Commercial networks)	Rolf Zetterberg - Sweden
10:30	Coordination at national level - Operational part (Management of the VDL, Control of overlapping AIS networks, Observation and control over the integrity of information, Control on misuse of AIS stations, Maintain and publish a list of national/regional binary message applications, Participation in regional coordination of AIS)	Wim van der Heijden - The Netherlands
	Coordination at national level - Technical part (Channel management, FATDMA slot planning, AIS overlapping and AIS messages)	Stefan Bober - Germany
11:30	Coffee break	
11:45	Coordination at EU level (Co-ordination of VDL management at EU level, Formation of an EU AIS coordination group, Central software tool)	Paul Wilkins - EMSA Rolf Zetterberg – Sweden Jens Kristian Jensen - Denmark
12:45	Lunch break	
14:00	AIS data exchange at regional or EU level	Rolf Zetterberg - Sweden Paul Wilkins – EMSA
14:45	Application of LRIT reporting in areas within AIS coverage	Paul Wilkins - EMSA
15:15	Draft Initial Plan of Action	Lazaros Aichmalotidis - EMSA
15:30	Coffee break	
15:40	AIS data quality	German Sarasua - EMSA
16:00	Discussion / Conclusions	Emilio Martin Bauza - EMSA
17:00	End of Meeting	