

4th CSG meeting, 9 June 2020

Request from MAOC (N) to participate in CISE Transitional Phase (discussion paper)

Aim

The purpose of this paper is to inform the CISE Stakeholder Group (CSG) members about a request from MAOC (N) to participate in the CISE Transitional Phase and to decide accordingly.

Background

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC (N)), based in Lisbon, is an initiative by 7 EU Member Countries: France, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Portugal and the UK and is co-funded by the Internal Security Fund of the European Union. The Centre provides a forum for multi-lateral cooperation to suppress illicit drug trafficking by sea and air.

Although operational from April 2007, the Centre officially opened on the 30th of September 2007 in Lisbon following the signing of an International Agreement by Ministers from each of the Partner Countries. MAOC (N) is a European Law Enforcement unit with military support that coordinates maritime and aviation intelligence, resources and trained personnel in order to respond to the threat posed of illicit drug trafficking by maritime and air conveyances.

The headquarters is staffed by Country Liaison Officers (CLOs) representing the police, customs, military and maritime authorities of the participating European nations, as well as by a permanent observer from the United States through the Drug Enforcement Administration, Lisbon Country Office, and the Joint Interagency Task Force South. The European Commission, EUROPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Defence Agency (EDA), EUROJUST and FRONTEX are all observers of MAOC (N).

To learn more about MAOC (N), please refer to the centre's website: <https://maoc.eu/>, where also the information above has been collected.

MAOC (N) approached EMSA requesting to participate to the Transitional Phase of CISE.

The possibility of joining the CSG as Member or Observer is described in the governing rules of CISE as presented in the document "CISE Transitional Phase: Governance Structure"¹. While the Member

¹ <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/cise/transitional-phase.html>

representation is clearly defined and including an (exhaustive) list of EU Agencies and Services that are considered Members, there is also a possibility to contribute to the work as Observer (section 3.2 of the Governance Structure).

Proposal

MAOC (N), with their field of expertise and knowledge of CISE (MAOC (N) was part of the TAG -Technical Advisory Group) could contribute in a positive way to the CISE Transitional Phase. Therefore with this discussion paper the CSG is requested to decide that:

1. MAOC (N) is invited to designate two experts as Observers to the CSG and to participate in its meetings,
2. MAOC (N) is invited to participate in all the Activities of the Transitional Phase, and that
3. this should be considered a standing arrangement throughout the Transitional Phase.

Way forward

At the 4th CSG meeting on 9 June 2020, the CSG members are invited to agree with this proposal.