

2nd Workshop on Marine Casualty Investigation

Brussels, 15 and 16 November 2005

Conclusions

These conclusions reflect generally the views of the Workshop participants, who included experts from the investigating authorities in the Member States and other international organizations.

EMCIP

1. Significant differences between marine casualty data held by some Member States and data stored elsewhere support the need for creating a single European marine casualty database (to be known as EMCIP) so that sufficient levels of marine casualty information and data can be identified, stored and analysed using a common taxonomy.
2. EMCIP has reached an advanced stage in its development. Upon mutual agreement of participation and working arrangements and on completion of training scheduled for the first half of 2006, Member States will be able to access EMCIP and to exchange and process data relating to marine casualties, incidents and, where relevant, occupational accidents on a voluntary basis.
3. There is general support for EMCIP. The draft elements contained in EMSA's working paper for the voluntary administrative working arrangements framing EMCIP's database of marine casualties, incidents and, where relevant, occupational accidents should be discussed with the Member State administrations as soon as possible.
4. There is general support for EMSA's proposal to further develop EMCIP so as to facilitate automatic transfer of data to the IMO so that Member States are able to comply with IMO's reporting requirements in such a way as to avoid duplication of effort.

IMO Code

5. The forthcoming revision of the IMO Code for the investigation of marine casualties and incidents will provide an opportunity for the Member States to influence changes to marine casualty investigation at an international level based on agreed principles and best practice in the EU.

6. To facilitate an agreement on a common EU position with respect to the proposed revision of the IMO Code, EMSA proposes to create and support an exchange of opinion through a network of technical experts of the EU and EEA and, in due course, to hold a discussion forum on the matter.

Cooperation

7. In view of the differing national laws and procedures with respect to confidentiality and disclosure of evidence, cooperation between States requires a pragmatic approach in the collection and exchange of information and evidence, and in the construction and presentation of a final report. It is generally agreed that this should be reflected in a revised IMO Code and at the European level.

VDR

8. After the VDR awareness seminars, there is general interest in the need to improve knowledge at national level for the playback, analysis and, in particular, the downloading of VDR data. Member States appear interested in a shared solution, particularly in respect of playback and analysis.

Working Group

9. There is general support for EMSA's proposal to formulate a technical working group next year initially focussed on the operation and future development of EMCIP.