

PERMANENT COOPERATION FRAMEWORK ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Salient Points 10th meeting, 2 – 4 December 2020

Attendees

Due to the pandemic situation, the tenth meeting of the Permanent Cooperation Framework (PCF) for the investigation of accidents in the maritime transport sector was held online on 2-4 December 2020.

Mr Jonas Bäckstrand chaired the meeting, assisted by Mr Ron Damstra, as Deputy Chairperson.

Thirty-one experts from 24 EU MS / EEA Countries attended the meeting. The European Commission was represented by DG – MOVE and assisted by EMSA. EMSA provided the Secretariat for the meeting.

Introduction

The main agenda points were the following:

- **Adoption of PCF9 Report and PCF9 Salient points;**
- **Updates by Member States, EMSA and COM;**
- **Workshop on systemic approach in safety investigation (Lund University)**
- **Cooperation and exchange of best practices**
 - Feedback on national resources and procedures for data confidentiality
 - BREXIT and impact of MAIB leaving the PCF
- **Enhancing safety investigations**
 - Progress report of WG13 “Human element in AI”
 - EMSA operational support to MS concerning investigations related to Very Serious or Serious marine casualties
- **Investigation reports**
 - Technical observations on final reports for improving their quality
- **Learning from accidents**
 - EMCIP data analysis on container vessels
 - EMSA annual overview of marine casualties and incidents 2020
- **Training and qualification**
 - Working Group 4 progress report on training and qualification
 - Training activities by EMSA: done and planned for 2021
- **EMCIP Governance**
 - EMCIP: state-of-play and future development
 - Proposal for managing EMCIP users
 - Improving reporting in EMCIP
 - Data quality
 - MoU between EMSA and HELCOM on data sharing PCF10/11.5 – Germany
 - Feedback on data sharing
- **Update from Working Group 10 on AID revision**
- **Work Programme**
- **AOB**
 - Update / Follow up
 - Input for inter-sessional PCF workshop
- **Elections of the PCF Chair and deputy chair (online)**

Summary of the main outcomes

Updates by the Member States, EMSA and COM

MS shared information on the **safety investigations** carried out after PCF9 (June 2019), safety topics of interest and **impact of COVID** in the investigation process.

The Commission provided an update on the **revision of the AI Directive** and assured that PCF Members, as business experts, will be kept in the loop of the process, having the opportunity to express their views during the planned impact assessment.

PCF WG progress report

WG4 on training/qualification will continue its work to finalize the catalogue of training courses and to draft guidelines on report writing.

The Group agreed on the proposal from **WG13** to adopt a 'new philosophy' for AI embracing the systemic approach in safety investigations and instructed the WG to focus on (i) investigation methodology, (ii) analysis methods and (iii) organising a future PCF inter-sessional workshop.

WG10 will be the interlocutor of the Commission for providing technical input in the context of the revision of the AI Directive.

Workshop on systemic approach in safety investigation

The Group expressed interest in the presentation delivered by Lund University concerning the **systemic approach** in AI.

Cooperation and exchange of best practices

The Group took note of the updated version of the "**Practices/procedures on data confidentiality** when external experts are contracted to support an investigation" and the "**Updated list of national resources**."

EMSA operational support for AI

The Group expressed interest in the **operational support** that the Agency can provide to support investigations related to serious or very serious casualties, upon request of the MS and without prejudice to the independence of the AIB. EMSA will organise in 2021 an inter-sessional meeting to outline the services and tools that the Agency may provide.

Technical observation on final reports for improving the data quality

The Group agreed on the proposed approach to conduct the **assessment of safety reports** and validated the methodology, which should be considered as a "living document".

Learning from accidents

EMSA introduced the EMCIP data analysis on **container vessels** and stressed the benefits of involving experts from the MS in the revision process.

The **Annual overview** 2020 will be shortly published and, amongst others, it includes safety indicators measuring the ratio of the number of accidents involving specific vessel types against the relevant ship population. The Agency is also exploring the use of Jaspersoft to automatize the production of statistics.

Training and qualification

EMSA informed the Group about the **training initiatives** after PCF9 that have been organised or yet to be delivered. An update on the new procurement for VDR courses was provided as well.

EMCIP Governance

EMSA informed the Group about the new functionalities available in **EMCIP**, the planned improvements and the feedback from the UG.

The Group agreed that EMSA would inform the National Point of Contact for EMCIP for each request for **creating and managing national users** directly received by other national authorities.

MS validated the proposal to **amend the workflow** limiting the "other entitled authorities" involved in the reporting process to create draft in EMCIP but not to submit occurrences in the system.

The Group agreed on the proposal to prioritize the systematic checks on **data quality** rather than performing an assessment of a randomised samples, and various scenarios were discussed.

Regarding the provision of **EMCIP data to HELCOM**, the AIBs agreed to share accident information occurring in the Baltic Sea in the context of the MoU even if not a HELCOM members.

EMSA provided figures on the **requests for EMCIP data** received since PCF9, showing an increased number of requests.

Election of PCF Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson

Mr Jonas Bäckstrand (SHK – Sweden) was re-elected as Chairperson, and Mr Ignatios Nikolaou (HBMC – Greece) was elected as Deputy-Chairperson.