The European Systems for Co-operation in Case of a Major Oil Spill

Bernd Bluhm
Head of Unit
Pollution Preparedness and Response
European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

EMSA
European Maritime Safety Agency

ITOPF

Oil Spill Response

The European Systems for Co-operation

3 Levels of Co-operation/assistance between States are currently available:

- Bi- and tri-lateral agreements (sub-regional level)
  - between neighbouring States

- Regional Agreements (regional level)
  - between States adjoining the same sea area

- EMSA (Pan-European level)
  - for all European Union Member States and European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Countries

Bi- and Tri-lateral Agreements in Europe

A number of bi- and tri-lateral (sub-regional) agreements in Europe, for example:

- Latvia, Russia and Poland for the South-eastern part of the Baltic
- SWEDENGER (Sweden, Denmark and Germany)
- DENGERNETH (Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands)

One country is a party to more than one agreement, e.g. UK is a contracting party to:

- the Anglo-French Manche Plan for the Channel
- Norway/United Kingdom Agreement for the North Sea
- Draft Irish/UK plan for the Irish Sea

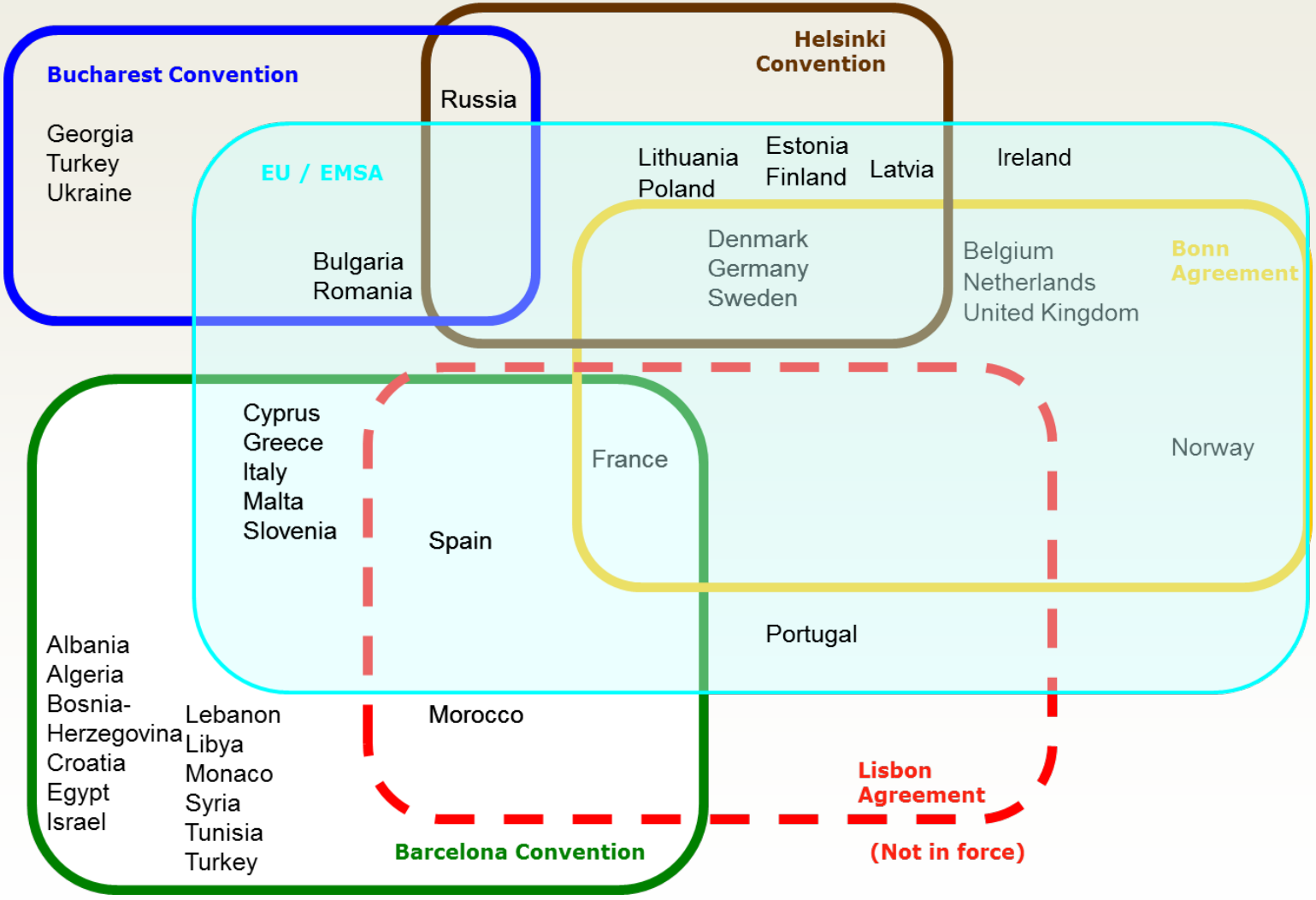
NORBRIT Plan

- The Plan is a MoU between the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (UK) and the Coastal Administration (Norway).
- The objectives of this plan are to establish procedures to be followed during any joint Norway/UK pollution response and salvage operations at sea.
- It clearly defines lines of communication as well as command and control procedures.
- To complement this NORBRIT Plan, arrangements also exist under the Bonn Agreement to provide assistance and resources if deemed necessary

Regional Agreements in Europe

- the Helsinki Convention on the protection of the marine environment for the Baltic Sea (www.helcom.fi)
- the Bonn Agreement for cooperation in terms of oil pollution response in the North Sea (www.bonnagreement.org)
- the Lisbon Agreement for the protection of the north-east Atlantic against pollution (www.lisbonagreement.org)
- the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea (www.rempec.org)
- the Bucharest Convention on the protection of the Black Sea against pollution (www.blacksea-commission.org)

Regional Agreements in Europe

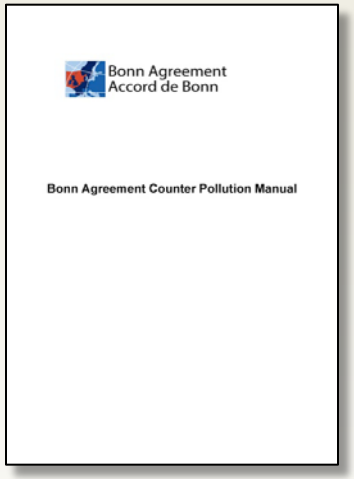


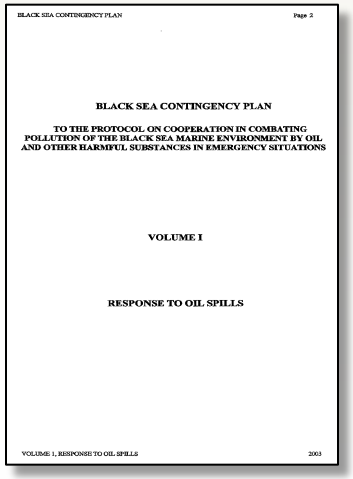
EMSA European Maritime Safety Agency

ITOPF

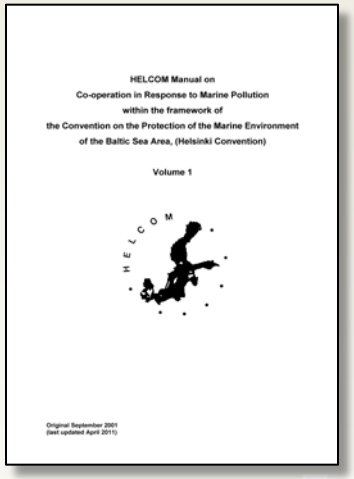
Oil Spill Response

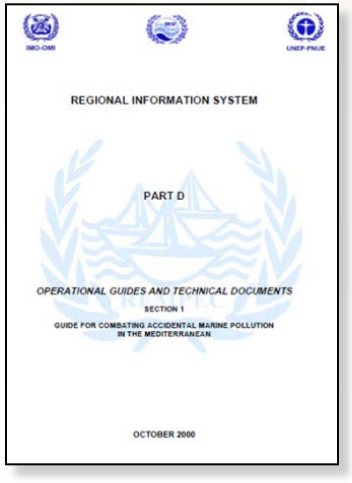
Procedures within the bi- and tri-lateral or Regional Agreements





- Response or Counter Pollution Manuals or Guidelines are published
- PolRep System with PolInf, PolWarn and PolFac is fully implemented
- Various chapters are dedicated to assistance, operational control, reimbursement etc.
- Regular annual notification or operational exercises with different parties involved





EMSA
European Maritime Safety Agency

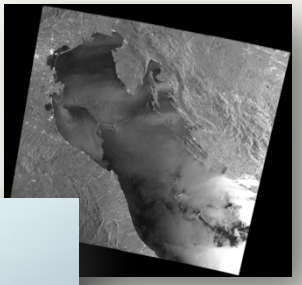
ITOPF

Oil Spill Response

European Maritime Safety Agency EMSA)

EMSA is providing the Pan-European support with:

- Network of Stand-by Oil Spill Recovery Vessels
  - 16 equipped vessels along the European coastline
  - 19 offshore boom sets with 500 m each
  - 3 High capacity multi-skimmers with 200/400 m3/h
  - 18 offshore skimmers with 125 m3/h
- Expert Service
- CleanSeaNet Service (satellite imagery)
- MAR-ICE

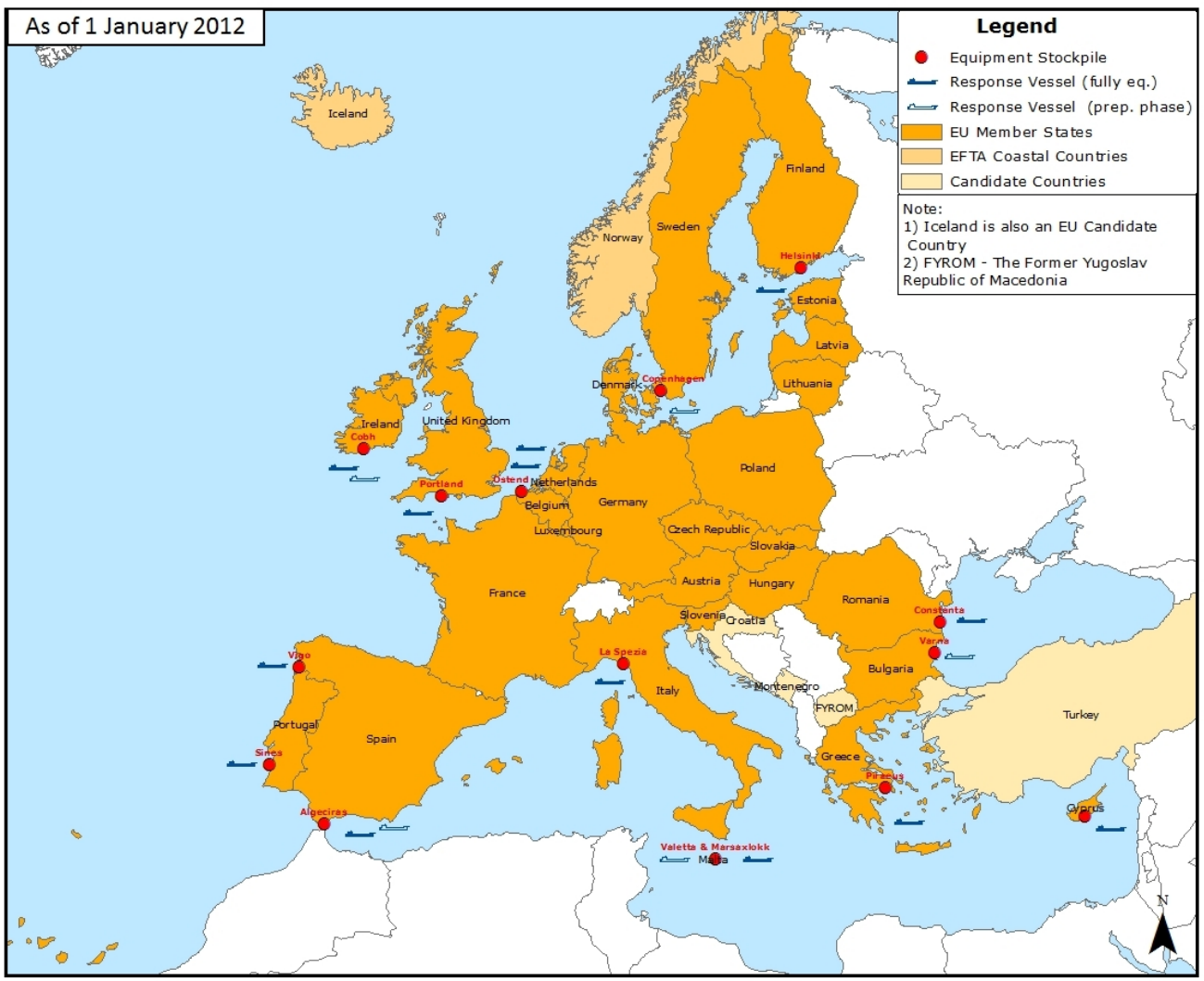


EMSA
European Maritime Safety Agency

ITOPF

Oil Spill Response

Network of Stand-by Oil Spill Response Vessels



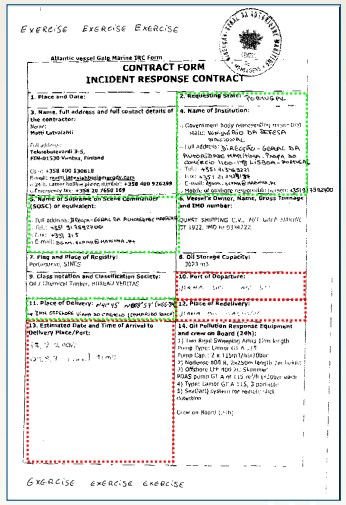
EMSA European Maritime Safety Agency

ITOPF

Oil Spill Response

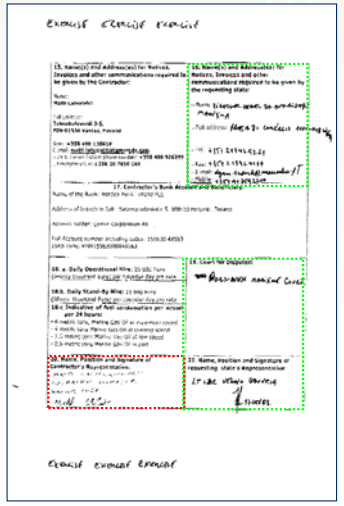
Procedures for requesting EMSA assistance

- Mobilisation at request of a Member State or the EU Commission
- Channelled through “EU Mechanism” – Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC)
- Incident Response Contract (IRC) - pre-agreed conditions and tariffs
- Signed between:
  - Member State - EMSA Contractor
  - EU Commission - EMSA Contractor
  - Company - EMSA Contractor
- Vessels under “Operational Control” of the State
- EMSA provides operational support only


EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

CONTRACT FORM
INCIDENT RESPONSE CONTRACT

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE


EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

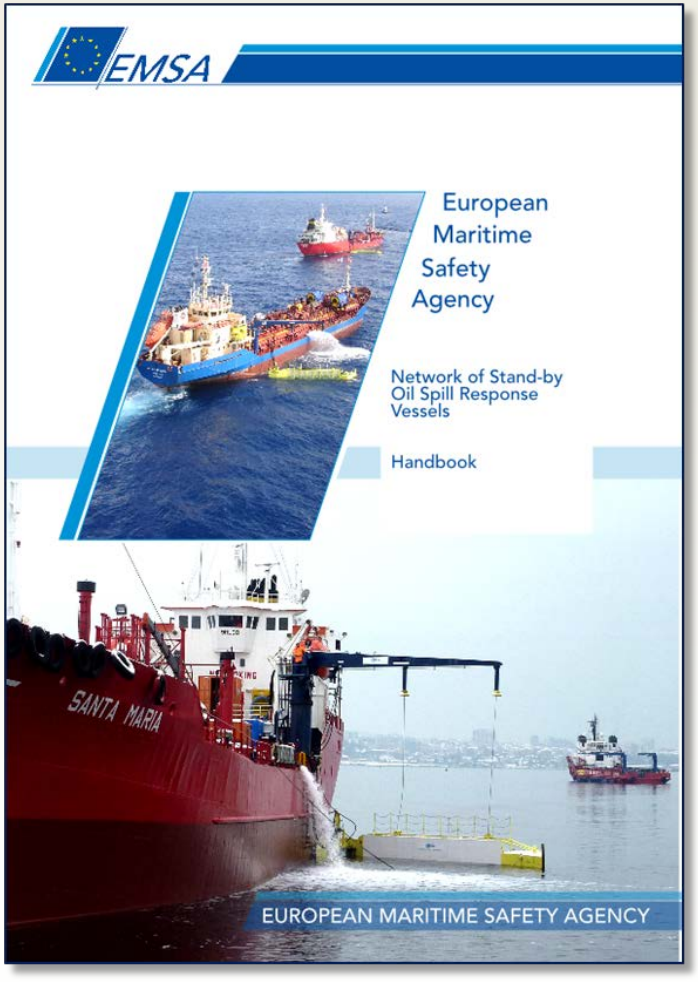
EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

EMSA
European Maritime Safety Agency

ITOPF

Oil Spill Response

Thank you
for your attention



Further information:

http://www.emsa.europa.eu/operations/marine-pollution/network-of-stand-by-oil-spill-response-vessels

EMSA
European Maritime Safety Agency

ITOPF

Oil Spill Response