

Meeting: 24th SafeSeaNet Group Meeting

Place and date: Lisbon, 14 October 2015

Agenda item: 24.3.3 – SSN Incident report guidelines update in line with the Places of Refuge guidelines

Document number: SSN 24.3.3

Submitted by EMSA

Summary	Proposals for amendments to the SSN Incident Report Guidelines (v2.1)
Action to be taken	As per paragraph 3.
Related documents	a. Directive 2002/59/EC (amended) b. HLSG 13, Agenda point 6.3

1. Background

Following experience associated with recent maritime incidents, the Member States of the European Union, together with the European Commission and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), decided to review the framework for cooperation and coordination between States in order to improve the existing arrangements for the granting of Places of Refuge.

On 16 March 2015, the draft “EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge” were introduced by the Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge, with the main goal being the enhancement of cooperation and coordination between all parties involved, including Member State authorities and relevant industry actors.

Information from the Places of Refuge Group was presented at SSN HLSG 14 (Brussels, 5 June 2015). Following this, the HLSG mandated EMSA to begin work on amending the SSN Incident Report Guidelines in order to include the use of the SSN incident reporting framework for the exchange and sharing of PoR information.

On 1st September 2015, the “MED CARRIER” exercise took place in Malta, with the aim of testing the recently introduced “Places of Refuge EU Operational Guidelines,” including the procedures for distributing incident reports related to PoR situations. In order to facilitate the simulation of the latter in the exercise, the SSN training environment was loaded with dummy AIS positions for the exercise ships. The exercise outcomes will be evaluated by the Cooperation Group.

2. Current Status

Taking into account what was agreed by the SSN HLSG, and bearing in mind that the SSN Incident Report Guidelines already cover all types of incident reports, EMSA proposes the following amendments to the guidelines:

- Section 2.4. – to include a reference to the “EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge,” requiring users to take these guidelines into consideration whenever incident reports associated with PoR requests are to be distributed (regardless of the ship size or type);
- Section 2.6. – to add that the Maritime Assistance Services (MAS) are a potential recipient of PoR-related incident reports;
- Sections 3.1.1. and 3.1.3. – to add a reference to the “EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge” in order to include involved Member States as recipients of reports;
- Annex 1.1 – to include an example showing the distribution of incident reports related to a PoR case.

The final proposal for these amendments will be prepared, and distributed to MSs by correspondence, after the exercise results have been evaluated and the “Places of Refuge EU Operational Guidelines” have been amended by the Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge (if necessary).

3. Action Required

Member States are invited to note the above information.