

## **SAFEMED IV Project 1st Steering Committee Meeting,**

**25 – 26 September 2017, Lisbon**

### **Conclusions**

The SAFEMED IV Project 1st Steering Committee Meeting was held on 25-26 September 2017 at the EMSA premises in Lisbon, Portugal.

The meeting was attended by 14 participants from all Project's Beneficiary countries (BCs), namely from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Representatives from the European Commission (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE)), as well as observers from Turkey<sup>1</sup>, the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Memorandum of Understanding on PSC (MED MoU), REMPEC, the Italian Coast Guard and CETMO participated in the Meeting.

EMSA welcomed the participants, highlighting the added value of the project. Building up on the experience gained through SAFEMED III, the SAFEMED IV Project was presented as the channel through which EMSA would offer to the beneficiaries a wide portfolio of technical assistance, including training, eLearning, access to tools and applications. EMSA emphasised the need for commitment, cooperation and participation from the beneficiaries for the fulfilment of the very ambitious objectives of the project. The European Commission's representatives also welcomed the participants. DG NEAR presented the vision and goal of the ENP policy, and an overview of the different instruments in place for the Mediterranean region. DG MOVE presented an overview of the European Union maritime safety policy. The role and contribution of EMSA to capacity building and approximation of standards in the region was highlighted.

EMSA presented the SAFEMED IV Project, with focus on possible key actions for each technical component: Flag State, Port State, VTMIS, Protection of marine environment, Human element in maritime safety and Maritime security.

The beneficiary countries had the possibility to provide an overview of their maritime administrations and to highlight their national needs in terms of technical assistance that could be provided through actions (regional and bilateral) under the SAFEMED IV Project. In this regard EMSA reminded the constraints represented by the financial resources available and the technical expertise accessible in-house.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey is a member of the MeD MoU and is expected to become a beneficiary of SAFEMED IV as from January 2018

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, the Secretariat of the MED MoU shared with the audience information on the recent developments of the Port state control regime under the MED MoU and suggested possible actions to be considered under the framework of the Project, such as training seminars for PSCOs, CIC seminars, MEDSIS upgrade and exchange programme for PSCOs.

The need to increase the approximation between the MED MoU procedures and Paris MoU procedures, especially with regard to banning procedures, was highlighted.

EMSA explained the use and functionalities of the two tools developed and managed by the Agency, namely RuleCheck and MaKCs, highlighting in particular the fact that the tools are accessible not only to PSCOs, but also to staff from the competent authorities of the beneficiaries, such as Flag State Inspectors, Accident Investigation Bodies. EMSA encouraged beneficiaries to increase the number of users. Under this respect it was stressed the importance to make sure that the tools are used effectively and continuously, in order to ensure that the action is of added value for the beneficiaries. EMSA committed to report about the use of the tools at next Steering Committee.

A visit to the EMSA Maritime Support Services Centre (MSS) took place on 26 September 2017, where the participants were provided with an overview on SafeSeaNet, CleanSeaNet and the other operational services provided by EMSA.

The provision of appropriate feedback after having received a CleanSeaNet alert by the BCs to EMSA was stressed to the Steering Committee participants, in order to assess the added value of the Service for the beneficiaries.

In the light of the different inputs provided, a plan of technical actions (document attached) was discussed and endorsed by the Steering Committee as the starting point of the implementation phase of the Project. The actions will cover regional and bilateral initiatives.

The plan will be fine-tuned and revised in the light of the experience at the next Steering Committee, where the Beneficiaries will be in a position also to convey needs to be covered through “twinning” projects, for the Commission to deal with through the appropriate channels.

New areas for training were suggested by some beneficiaries, such as MODUs, OSVs, Search & Rescue, and Civil Liability. EMSA will reflect on how to handle such needs.

Subject to prior authorisation from DG NEAR, Turkey will be in a position to participate to the regional activities of the SAFEMED IV project. With regard to bilateral activities, those will be approved once Turkey will become a beneficiary country.

Following the endorsement of the plan of technical actions, EMSA will develop a work plan, including an accurate timeline for the various actions to be undertaken. The Work plan for the implementation of the actions will be available by the end of October 2017. The implementation phase will take into consideration the financial resources made available by the Project and the availability of technical resources and external support.

The necessity of working together for the future implementation of the Work plan was emphasised by all participants.

## **Annexes**

Agenda of the meeting

List of participants

Plan of technical actions

Presentations