



**REPORT ON THE BLACK SEAR REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE  
AND THE GMDSS**

**Constanta, Romania, 30 March to 2 April 2004**

**Introduction**

1 In pursuance of its responsibility as the depositary of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974 and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) assisted with the organization and sponsorship of a Regional Conference on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), in Constanta, Romania, from 30 March to 2 April 2004.

2 The Conference was organized in co-operation with the Government of Romania and with financial support provided by IMO.

**Conference Participants**

3 Six countries were invited and four countries participated. The Conference was attended by:

- two IMO Consultants;
- delegates from Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine, (all being senior representatives from each country's maritime administration), Government Ministries and national authorities responsible for search and rescue and communications;
- additional delegates from the host country (Romania) also attended as observers.

4. A complete list of all participants, including observers to the Conference is contained at **Annex 1**.

### **Administration of The Conference**

5. With funds provided by the IMO and the Government of Romania the conference budget covered:
- .1 economy class return air fares and hotel accommodation for two Government-nominated participants from each of the six countries surrounding the Black Sea;
  - .2 expenditures on the two IMO Consultants; and.
  - .3 Conference facilities at the Hotel Bulevard, Constanta.

### **Adoption of The Agenda**

6. The draft conference agenda was adopted, the conference followed the timetable shown at **Annex 2**.

### **Opening Ceremony**

7. The conference was opened, on behalf of the Government of Romania, by Mr Marin Chintoan-Uta, General Director, Romanian Naval Authority (RNA), who, in welcoming the delegates, emphasized the vital role played by co-ordination and co-operation in any search and rescue operation. He was confident that the Conference would make a significant step forward and would provide a model for future regional co-operation for maritime search and rescue in the Black Sea and the co-ordination of all related activities. He wished the delegates success at the Conference and urged them to work together to put in place the foundations for the Regional implementation of the Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and the global SAR plan, including the necessary funding mechanism. Mr Serban Berescu, Director of the RNA Maritime Operations Division was elected as Chairman to the Conference.

8. In their reply on behalf of IMO, Mr. Urban Hallberg and Mr. John Wynn, IMO Consultants, expressed appreciation to the RNA and the Government of Romania whose financial contributions had made the Conference possible and provided excellent facilities for the meeting. Both consultants paid special tribute to the delegates of the Conference for their assistance throughout the project to-date and they spoke of the significance of the this first Conference which, following the completion of the Training Needs Analysis in November 2003, hoped it would initiate steps towards practical implementation of co-operation and professional training for SAR personnel in the Black Sea Region.

### **Background**

9. To enhance the efficiency of the Regional SAR services and to improve co-operation amongst the SAR services of the Black Sea Coastal States, Romania decided to organize the first Black Sea SAR Conference, inviting IMO representatives to participate accordingly.

## **Conference Objectives**

9. The principal objective of the Conference was to further clarify and identify the overall requirement for professional SAR training in all six Black Sea countries, following the Training Needs Analysis carried out by the two IMO Consultants in November 2003. The training requirement, for all countries, covers the following areas:

- SAR Administration
- SAR Mission Co-ordination & planning
- On Scene Co-ordination
- Communications for the co-ordination of SAR

## **Conference Proceedings**

10. The conference proceeded according to a four day schedule in accordance with the agenda.

11. Mr Hallberg gave a brief account of IMO's, Sub-Committee on communications and search and rescue (COMSAR) activities to enhance SAR and safety at sea, and to protect the marine environment from pollution by ships and said that the Ankara Agreement was the foundation of the work and the aims of the Conference. In particular, there is a need for regional co-operation and co-ordination to implement the global provisional SAR plan for maritime SAR services, thus improving the response and assistance given to ships and persons in distress in the Black Sea. Following the introductions a press conference was held involving the RNA and the two IMO consultants.

12. Discussions started with a review of the Ankara agreement which was prepared in 1998, with the objective of providing good support for the improvement of cooperation among the Black Sea Coastal States. Within the discussions the delegation from Turkey mentioned that Georgia has still to ratify the Ankara agreement, in order to start negotiations for the delimitation of the Black Sea SAR Regions. Once done so the Secretary General of IMO will be notified in accordance with paragraph 2.1.11 of the International Convention on Maritime SAR, 1979 (as amended)

13. Every country present then provided information concerning their country's arrangements for the organization for search and rescue including facilities used in case of emergency situations.

14. The delegation from Turkey spoke about exercises and their activities surrounding exercises which encompassed not only SAR but also interdiction of illegal immigrants and illegal fishing activities in Turkish waters. The delegation from Turkey wished it to be noted that in Turkey, the Border Police and the Turkish Coast Guard are both responsible for SAR and all exercises, and in June of this year a major exercise is to be held in the Black Sea which will also involve participants from Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, all of whom will be providing SAR facilities. It was further noted that in Romania the RNA is responsible for SAR exercises, in Bulgaria the responsibility falls to the Maritime Administration and in Ukraine the State Department of Maritime and Inland Waters has the responsibility.

15. On the second half of the first day, presentations were made concerning the existing communications and alerting facilities from each country. From Romania, Radionav, presented their activity, being the unique public service provider for distress, urgency, and safety communications along Romanian Black Sea coast.

16. The most important issue raised during the discussions concerned the problems caused by false alerts in the GMDSS, a continuing problem that must be resolved in some way. The Turkish delegation's proposal was to compile statistics (per month or per year) on all false alerts transmitted by ships in the Black Sea. If more than one false alert was received from a single vessel, Port State Control should be notified and they should inform the vessels owners and the Flag State of the vessel concerned. All delegates agreed that exchanging and collecting information between countries would help to solve the problems caused by false alerts. Turkey also proposed that a continuous listening watch on VHF channel 16 should be continued (*duration to be determined at future Conferences*) in the Black Sea to cater for the needs of fishing vessels and small craft which fall outside the requirements of the SOLAS Convention.

17. On the subject of communications, Mr. Urban Hallberg suggested that the Black Sea countries should review, or even renew (if possible) their communication systems. He mentioned that GMDSS technology is old and slow, and also gives very little information. Romania asked that all countries investigate if there are any links with Ankara MRCC and Bulgaria and proposed the use of the Internet to establish links between MRCC's.

18. Mr Durmaz Hakan (Turkey), SAR Co-ordinator in addressing the Conference, highlighted the commitment of the Turkish Coast Guard to search and rescue and explained his organization's situation relating to maritime SAR, describing the area covered, the infrastructure developed (MRCC's), the personnel employed and the equipment available for these services.

### **Presentations**

19. The second day of the conference commenced with presentations from;

Mr Urban Hallberg, IMO Consultant -  
VTMIS/EMSA implementation and the HELCOM system in Sweden.

Mr Silviu Apostol, RNA Romania –  
The implementation of an AIS system in Romania;

Mr Stefan Dimitrov, Bulgaria –  
The implementation of VTMIS in Bulgaria;

Mr. Florentin Costache, Romanian Border Police –  
Implementation of an integrated system for observation, surveillance and control of traffic in Romania (ISOSCT)

Mr Urban Hallberg, IMO Consultant –  
The AIS system at MRCC Goteborg

20. As a conclusion to the presentations Mr Urban Hallberg recommended that all Black Sea countries should endeavour to make a marked distinction between the requirements for salvage

and SAR activities in the Black Sea. (*A recommendation also made in the TNA report of November 2003*)

21. The Romanian Border Police wished it to be noted that the implementation of the Romanian Naval Authority's proposed AIS system, as presented by Radionav (Romania) should correlate with Border Police's new Integrated Surveillance System (SCOMAR)

### **Training**

22. The Conference then focused on the Black Sea Training Needs Analysis report prepared in November and circulated to all countries. In introducing the report Mr. Wynn suggested that the training strategy should cover a five year period as opposed to the three year period proposed in the TNA report. This was due to;

- the extensive training requirement;
- the need to revise some of the existing IMO Model Courses and;
- to avoid too much simultaneous training in all countries which would be very difficult to implement in a 3 year period unless there was a large pool of experienced trainers available to undertake the work required.

23. Some of the delegations then proposed amendments/modifications to their respective overall training requirement.

Turkey - wished to change to the number of personnel for each course, viz;

- SAR Admin 15
- SMC 10
- OSC 150
- CSOC 20

Bulgaria - proposed to cancel the Bulgarian participation in the CSOC course in Georgia and also advised that these courses may take place in the Bulgarian Maritime Training Centre (BMTC) or the Technical University in Varna.

Ukraine – advised that they wished to announce the final number of participants for the CSOC course at a later date.

Romania – wished it to be noted that the courses may take place at CERONAV (Romanian Maritime Training Centre). They also made changes to their requirement for the CSOC course increasing the number of personnel from 10 to 40.

The TNA report was amended accordingly.

### **Technical Co-Operation For The Implementation of The Training Needs Analysis**

24. After further discussions all participants agreed that a Regional SAR fund should be established for the Black Sea, primarily to assist with the implementation of the proposed training plan and wished to stress the importance of the fund to their respective administrations.

25. The Conference took note of the information provided by the IMO Consultants, the Technical Co-operation Programme of IMO and adopted Recommendation No. 8 *paragraph 28* on Technical Co-operation in maritime search and rescue (SAR) and the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) for the Black Sea, inviting the six Member Governments, the Maritime Safety Committee and the Secretary-General of IMO to take action as specified in the Recommendation.

### **Establishment of Intersessionary Working Groups**

26. The Chairman of the conference then proposed the establishment of two Intersessionary Working Groups, one for SAR Operations and one for SAR Communications, the proposal was this was unanimously accepted. Mr Hakan Durmaz (Turkey) was nominated and elected as leader of the SAR Operations WG and Mr Vasile Pipirigeanu (Romania) was nominated and elected as leader of the SAR Communications WG. The membership of each Working Group is shown at **Annex 3**. Each Working Group was instructed to establish a programme of activities to be undertaken between each SAR Conference. Communication between the participants of each group will be by e-mail, Mr Wynn will liaise with, and assist the SAR Operations WG and Mr Hallberg will liaise with, and assist the SAR Communications WG.

27. The Conference instructed the IMO Consultants to bring the outcome of the above deliberations to the attention of those countries not present at the Conference for information and action as necessary and to notify the Secretary-General of IMO accordingly.

### **Conference Recommendations**

28. The Conference considered and proposed the following recommendations;

- .1 All Member States should clarify and provide information concerning which authority is responsible for the co-ordination of SAR;
- .2 An information system should be established in the Black Sea concerning the generation of false alerts in the GMDSS;
- .3 Arrangements should be made by each country for communications using a suitable Inmarsat Land Earth Station (LES);
- .4 All countries should encourage close co-operation with their respective military facilities and civil aeronautical authorities;
- 5 Georgia should be invited to ratify the Ankara Agreement as soon as possible in order to finalise arrangements for the delimitation of SAR Regions in the Black Sea;

- .6 The future requirement for a continuous a listening watch on VHF channel 16 by shore-based authorities in the Black Sea should be assessed and agreed between all six Member States.
- .7 All MRCC's in the region should establish a network for communications using the internet and/or SARNET.
- .8 A Black Sea SAR Training fund should be established in co-operation with the IMO's Technical Cooperation Committee in order to assist with the implementation of the regional training requirement as detailed in the Training Needs Analysis Report, November 2003 (as amended by the conference);
- .9 All Member States should consider the a requirement for the exchange and Integration of systems, - particularly AIS information - to provide a "maritime picture" and a database of information for the Black Sea.
- .10 All Black Sea countries should endeavour to make a marked distinction between the requirements for salvage and SAR activities in the Black Sea so as to avoid duplication of effort, unnecessary expenditure and to release funds for more suitable SAR facilities.

### **Future Conferences**

29. The delegation from Ukraine proposed to the conference that the second Black Sea Conference on SAR and the GMDSS could be held in Ukraine in the first week of April, 2005. Ukraine's proposal was unanimously accepted.

### **Closing Ceremony**

30. The Chairman, Mr. Serban Berescu, closed the conference on behalf of the Romanian Naval Authority, he stressed that his country was particularly proud to host the Conference thus providing the opportunity for the consideration of the new approach to implement the relevant parts of the global SAR plan in the Black Sea Region. He paid tribute to the participants and the IMO Consultants for the quality of their input to the conference and for the spirit of co-operation they had shown throughout the Conference. He urged participants, on their return home, to urge their Governments to consider all recommendations of this first Black Sea Conference on SAR and the GMDSS and the future need for collaboration and integration. He also strongly encouraged the promotion of the Black Sea SAR Training fund which would make a big step forward in the improvement and the quality of SAR services rendered to seafarers in distress at sea. He concluded by wishing all a safe return home.

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**Annex 1**

**BLACK SEA SAR CONFERENCE**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**Annex 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Black Sea SAR Conference: Constanta, Romania, March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2004

**TIMETABLE**

Of the conference to be convened at 09.30 am on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Conference Hall of the Hotel BULEVARD, Constanta, Romania

**Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

- 9.30 Registration, welcome statements by the Host Government and IMO.
- 10.00 Press conference
- 10.30 Election of Chairman and Secretariat of the Conference. Adoption of the Agenda.
- 11.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30 Review of the Ankara agreement
  - Accomplished activities based on the agreement
  - Future activities such as operational agreements, exercises and pooling of facilities
- 13.00 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30 Communications/alerting facilities:  
GMSDD area A1, A2 and A3
- 16.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 16.30 Communications/alerting facilities:  
Other networks or facilities and future integration

**Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004**

- 9.30 AIS Implementation/ Ship reporting system
  - Shore based
  - SAR facilities
- 11.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30 AIS Implementation/ Ship reporting system
  - Exchange of information
  - Regional linking and databases
- 13.00 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30 SAR Training Strategy
  - IMO mission report
  - Black Sea countries response to the report
- 16.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 16.30 SAR Training Strategy
  - Conclusions and recommendation

**Thursday, April, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004**

- 9.30 SAR Training Strategy
  - Future action by IMO
- 11.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.30 SAR Training Strategy
  - Future actions by Black Sea countries
- 13.00 LUNCH BREAK
- 14.30 SAR facilities:
  - pooling of facilities
  - development of an equipment standard
  - the need for facilities/equipment seminar/workshop
- 16.00 COFFEE BREAK
- 16.30 Visits to RNA, VTS/MRCC Center,  
Salvage and Intervention Group - SAR units
- 19.00 (20.00) RNA Reception

**Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2004**

- 9.00 Adoption of conference resolution
  - operational agreements
    - ship reporting systems and exchange of information
    - SAR training strategy
    - development of standards for facilities and equipment
    - other as identified by the conference
- 12.00 Closure of the Conference

**Annex 3**

**Membership of the Two Intersessionary Working Groups**

**SAR Operations Working Group**

Leader - Mr.Hakan Durmaz, Turkish Undersecretariate for Maritime Affairs

Members - Mr. Adrian Alexe, Head of MRCC Constanta, Romania;  
Mr Fuat Bulduk, Turkish Coast Guard;  
Mr. Delyan Popov, Bulgarian Maritime Administration;  
Mr. Vadim Boltruchuk, MRCC Odessa, Ukraine.  
Capt. Konstantin Ludchenko – Head MRCC Novorossiysk

Point of Contact: Mr John Wynn, IMO Consultant, (UK/Oman)

**SAR Communications Working Group**

Leader - Mr. Vasile Pipirigeanu, GMDSS expert to CERONAV, Romania,

Members - Mr. Serdar Turfan, Chief Coast Radio Station Turkey;  
Mr Silviu Aposotol, Chief of IT and communications-department of RNA;  
Mr. Cristian Belea, Radionav, Romania;  
Mr. Timofey Tkachuk, Director of Morcom, Ukraine;  
Mr Stefan Dimitrov, Chief of coast radio station, Bulgaria.  
Mr. Evgeniy Karpachev – Head GMDSSB Communications Black Sea and Azov  
Sea

Point of Contact: Mr. Urban Hallberg, IMO Consultant (Sweden)

Note: Georgia to nominate WG participants