



**THE 10<sup>TH</sup> BLACK SEA SEARCH AND RESCUE  
CONFERENCE  
02 – 03 OCTOBER 2013**



Black Sea SAR Conference  
BS/SAR-10/WP.6  
Tenth Session  
Secretariat  
02 – 03 October 2013  
October, 2013

Origin:  
Date: 03

**Agenda Item 1**

**10-th BLACK SEA SAR CONFERENCE:**

SUGGESTED HOTELS: «NOVOROSSIYSK»

MEETING VENUE: **NOVOROSSIYSK, RUSSIA**

**AGENDA**

October 02-03rd, 2013 Novorossiysk, Russia

**October 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

09.00 - 09.30	Registration	All participants
09:30 - 10:00 <b>Item 1</b>	Opening and welcome, introduction of participants, approval of the Agenda	Welcome speeches of: 1. Harbor Master of FSI «Novorossiysk Maritime Port Administration» V. Erygin 2. Head of SMRCC – V.Chernov
10:00 – 11:00 <b>Item 2</b>	<b>2. SAR Facilities and Capabilities/SAR Statistics/False Alert Statistics</b> 2.1 Bulgaria	All participants

	2.2 Georgia 2.3 Romania 2.4 Russian Federation 2.5 Turkey 2.6 Ukraine	
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>	
11:30 – 13:00 <b>Item 3</b>	<b>Country Status Reports</b> 3.1 Bulgaria 3.2 Georgia 3.3 Romania 3.4 Russian Federation 3.5 Turkey 3.6 Ukraine	Bulgaria Georgia Romania Russian Federation Turkey Ukraine
<b>13:00 – 14: 30</b>	<b><i>LUNCH</i></b>	
14:30 – 15:00 <b>Item 3 Continued</b>	<b>Country Status Reports</b> 3.1 Bulgaria 3.2 Georgia 3.3 Romania 3.4 Russian Federation 3.5 Turkey 3.6 Ukraine	Bulgaria Georgia Romania Russian Federation Turkey Ukraine
15:00 – 16:00 <b>Item 4</b>	<b>SAR underwater operations in the Black Sea.</b> 4.1 Bulgaria 4.2 Georgia 4.3 Romania 4.4 Russian Federation 4.5 Turkey 4.6 Ukraine	Bulgaria Georgia Romania Russian Federation Turkey Ukraine
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	<b><i>Coffee Break</i></b>	
16:30 – 18:00 <b>Item 5</b>	<b>SAR Data Provider/ SAR Co-operation Index for Passenger Ships/ Plan for Co-operation between SAR Services and Passenger Ships</b>	

	<p><b>(according to the SOLAS Regulation V/7.3. and IMO MSC/Circ. 1079). Country Passengers Exercises Report/ Mass rescue operations.</b></p> <p>6.1 Bulgaria 6.2 Georgia 6.3 Romania 6.4 Russian Federation 6.5 Turkey 6.6 Ukraine</p>	<p>Bulgaria Georgia Romania Russian Federation Turkey Ukraine</p>
<b>20:00</b>	<b>***DINNER</b>	

*October 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2013*

09:00-09:30 <b>Item 6</b>	<b>Performance of BS MRCC WEB portal.</b>	Georgia All participants
09:30 - 10:30 <b>Item 7</b>	<b>Elaboration review of conduction of the Plan of International Exercises.</b>	All participants
10:30 - 11:00 <b>Item 8</b>	<b>IMO SAR Training in the Black Sea. (OSC)</b>	All participants
<b>11:00 – 11:30</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11:30 – 11:45 <b>Item 9</b>	<b>Place and Provisional Agenda for the 11th SAR Conference.</b>	All participants
11:45 – 12:15 <b>Item 10</b>	<b>Other Business.</b>	All participants
12.15 - 13.00 <b>Item 11</b>	Review of the Conference Report	All participants

13:30 – 18.00	<i>Touristic Visit, LUNCH</i>	All participants
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**\*\*\* The dress code is smart (i.e suit and tie for gentlemen and suitable dress for ladies)**



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**REPORT  
OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> BLACK SEA SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE  
02 – 03 October 2013, Novorossiysk (Russia)**

**Background**

1 According to the Article 9 of Agreement on Cooperation Regarding Maritime Search and Rescue Services among Black Sea Coastal States, 1998, Ankara, Turkey, to hold meetings of the Parties not less than once a year, the 9<sup>th</sup> Black Sea SAR Conference, 2012, Odessa, Ukraine, took the decision to hold the next Conference in Russia in 2013.

**Introduction**

2. In accordance with the Black Sea coastal states' responsibilities as Parties to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), 1979, and the aforementioned Black Sea SAR Agreement, 1998, Ministry of Transport of Russia being a legal successor of the competent authority as to the legal instruments concerned, organised and hosted this Conference through its competent

organisation namely Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre of FSI «Novorossiysk Maritime Port Administration», in Novorossiysk on 02 – 03 October 2013.

### **Conference Participants**

3. The Conference was attended by the delegates from Bulgaria, Russian Federation, Turkey, and representatives of Romania and Ukraine. The invited representatives of the IMO had to cancel their attendance due to various reasons. The Conference was also attended by representatives of various authorities and institutions from the host country involved to certain extent in the SAR activities.

### **Solemn Opening**

4. The Conference was opened by Deputy Harbour Master of the port of Novorossiysk Capt. Korolev and Head of State Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre Capt. Viktor Chernov on behalf of the Ministry of Transport of Russia as the host Party. He greeted the distinguished delegations and invited them to approve Capt. Alexey Kukhol as Chairman of the meeting.

5. The Conference agreed to approve Capt. A. Kukhol as Chairman of the Conference.

6. Chairman Mr. Kukhol expressed his gratitude to the audience and after a brief introducing speech gave the floor to the distinguished delegations to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of the Agenda**



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7. The delegates made a proposal to unite the Agenda items 2 and 3 in the current consideration which was agreed by them. The delegates generally approved the draft Agenda and agreed upon the timetable schedule as prepared by the host Party. Besides, the Romanian representative raised the topic of offshore activities as a challenge for Black Sea SAR and Chairman proposed to revert to this matter under the item 10 'Other Business'.

### **Conference Proceedings**

8. The Conference proceeded to start its work according to the further items of the adopted Agenda.

### **Agenda item 2: SAR Facilities and Capabilities/SAR Statistics/False Alert Statistics**

9. Most of the delegations informed the audience about the false alerts in their SAR area which were covered by their Country Status Reports.

10. The delegations commented on the false alerts issue. All the delegations stressed upon the significance of the information exchange regarding false alerts in the Black Sea in order to successfully combat such occasions. Further on the delegations discussed some technical aspects of the false alerting as in particular the cancelling procedures. However it was evident from their reports according to the statistics collected in each particular country that a general trend of decreasing a number of the false alerts is being observed.

#### **ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:**

1. Encourage the Black Sea countries to continue implementing the following course of actions:

- a) detecting the source and the cause of a false alert;
- b) advising the PSC of the vessel's next port of call and her flag state administration, further requesting for immediate intervention and proper inspection;
- c) subject to the outcome of the actions taken as above, imposing sanctions as deemed necessary;
- d) filling the BS MRCC WEB Portal with the relevant information and keeping it up to date.

### **Agenda item 3: Country Status Reports**

12. All the delegations presented their corresponding status reports to the attention of the Conference exchanging their comments and views, in particular on the mechanism of a SRU deployment to start a SAR mission and its dependence on the level of co-operation between the different authorities involved in the SAR activities. Particularly comprehensive was the report of Turkish delegation which developed into a deep analysis of MEOSAR system, the benefits of the system including SAR activity not only in their country but in regional co-operation as well

#### **ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

Take note of the information presented.

### **Agenda item 4: SAR underwater operations in the Black Sea.**

The delegations presented their reports as regards SAR underwater operations in their countries. Bulgaria made a presentation of SAR underwater operations conducted in their country by Naval forces, in particular their participation in the examination of the sunken m/v Tolstoy and m/v Karam - 1. The delegates discussed such an aspect of whether underwater operations to be co-ordinated by MRCC. Russia underlined that although it would be advisable there is no such

coordination in Russia as the SAR and underwater activities are subject to different Federal Agencies being independent of each other. However these services closely cooperate and if required Novorossiysk MRCC gets the Baltic Salvage and Towage Company involved in SAR activity. The Turkish delegation confirmed the same and clarified that they have 9 diving stations among which 3 stations are available in the Black Sea region. The representative from Romania proposed to refer to the IAMSAR Manual, Volume II in order to find out the relevant information concerning the possibility of co-ordination of the underwater operations by MRCC.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:** Give consideration to matter of possible co-ordination as mentioned above, taking into account the data comprised in the IAMSAR Manual, Volume II. The issue of such cooperation was decided to be included in the item 'Other Business' in Provisional Agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference.

Bulgarian delegation proposes that in Agenda of next conference instead of SAR Underwater operations it will take place a new item – SAR operations for aircraft incidents, because this type of operations is new and unfamiliar for all participants. All delegates agreed with proposal.

**Agenda item 5: SAR Data Provider/ SAR Co-operation Index for Passenger Ships/ Plan for Co-operation between SAR Services and Passenger Ships (according to the SOLAS Regulation V/7.3. and IMO MSC/Circ. 1079). Country passenger exercises. Mass rescue operations (MRO).**

14. The delegations made their reports as regards Plans for Co-operation between their SAR Services and Passenger vessels, the relevant statistics included. Bulgaria reminded once again of the necessity to have such Plan for Co-operation between the SAR Service and Passenger vessel available on board ship, at the Ship-owner and MRCC not only for passenger-ships which entered in Bulgarian ports but for passenger-ships transiting the Bulgarian waters regularly. The Romanian representative expressed the idea that it would be reasonable for a ship when proceeding through the Russian waters to have such a Plan in both English and Russian languages. The Turkish delegation informed that this year they have renewed their Plans for Co-operation between their SAR Services and Passenger vessels. The Russian delegation advised the Conference that Plans for Co-operation between their SAR Services and Passenger vessels have been concluded with all ships regular calling at the Russian ports. In addition, in respect with the issue of country passenger exercises the Russian delegate informed that the Communications Exercises are regularly performed with any passenger vessel leaving the port and upon its arrival at the port of destination. It was stressed that full scale exercises are not reasonable and justified in the event of passenger ships. All the delegates from other countries agreed with the Russian delegation.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:** Take note of the information presented.

**Agenda item 6: BS MRCC WEB Portal**

15. It was planned to get status report from the Georgian delegation as regards the Black Sea SAR dedicated Internet portal developed by Georgia aimed to aggregate all the necessary information both worldwide and regional, including the MRCCs and MRSCs contacts, charts displaying national or regional SAR exercises, materials of the Regional Conferences and so on.

However the delegation from Georgia could not arrive at the Conference because of visa problems. Nevertheless the delegates attending the Conference acknowledged the existence and proper functioning of the mentioned BS MRCC Web portal.

16. All the delegations expressed their readiness to further support the portal and supply it with updated information.

#### **ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

To proceed with the web portal further development and exchange further necessary technical information by e-mail.

#### **Agenda item 7: Elaboration of the Plan of International Exercises**

17. The delegations expressed their views on this topic, marking in particular that an exercise on the whole region scale would be too difficult to organise and this matter was beyond the scope of the Ankara Agreement. However, they underlined again that sub-regional exercises between two or three neighbouring countries could be a solution. The Turkish delegation took note that such sub-regional exercises require the decision taken on a higher level and often associating with bureaucratic problems and delays in arranging international exercises

#### **ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

1. As a result of discussions taken place it was proposed to conduct joint exercises as follows:
  - Communication Exercise – at least once a month;
  - Command Staff Exercise – at least once every six months;
  - Live Exercise – at least once a year. Moreover SAR Live exercise is advisable to be combined with Oil Spill Response exercise.
2. When international combined exercises are conducted the representatives of other Black Sea littoral countries to be invited as observers.

#### **Agenda item 8: IMO SAR Training in the Black Sea.**

18. The IMO Technical Director Ivaylo Valev failed to attend the Conference because of his full occupation. However IMO SAR Public Consultant Adrian Alexe as a member of Romanian delegation representing SAR private sector SC Group Servicii Petroliere SA – SC GSP SA, brought to delegates' notice that according to the information received from Mr. Ivaylo Valev the training courses are planned to take place for the period of 2014. Some changes might be made in training course programs.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:** Take note of the information advised.

#### **Agenda item 9: Place and Provisional Agenda for the 11 SAR Conference.**

19. Agenda for the next meeting was presented to the attention of the delegates. Although the delegation of Georgia failed to attend the Conference the Georgian delegates forwarded to the address of the Conference a letter in which they made a proposal that the next 11<sup>th</sup> Conference should take place either in Turkey or Bulgaria since each other country hosted



the SAR conference twice for the previous time. The Bulgarian delegation declared that it was difficult to take any decision for them due to reorganization of Maritime Administration to be planned in their country this year. They had no information in respect of the department which MRCC Varna would be subject to as a result of the mentioned reorganization. The Turkish delegation declared that they were ready to clarify this issue with the relevant Authority in their country taking into account the existing schedule of other events and would advise their decision within the period of a month upon the completion of the Conference. Agenda for the next meeting was presented to the attention of the delegates.

#### **ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

1. The Bulgarian delegates proposed to draw up a schedule for the next 6 years indicating what country will be a host-country for each following year in future.
2. Approve the Draft Agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference.

#### **Agenda item 10: Any other businesses**

20. As it was approved at the beginning of the Conference, the Romanian delegation through Capt. Adrian Alexe from SC GSP SA, made a presentation about offshore activities, as a new challenge for national and regional SAR activities, in order to strengthen the cooperation between MRCC around the Black Sea beside the offshore activities; it was proposed to initiate the primary discussions on establishing bilateral agreement regarding cooperation between national MRCCs and Aeronautical SAR Centers; establish a procedure on notification of MRCCs regarding schedule of crew change for rigs, using aero or maritime assets, MEDEVAC and real SAR operations involving rigs outside of rig safety zone; establish SAR maritime and aeronautical Cooperation agreement between Romania and Ukraine having in view the perspective on offshore activities; invite all Black Sea states to follow the example of Russian Federation and Ukraine which have already a SAR Cooperation Agreement in place.

In addition, Mr. Adrian Alexe invited the participant countries to analyse the possibility to support the founding of a regional association of Emergency Response and Rescue Vessels' (ERRV) owners, which could support the SAR activities in an organised and synchronised way. The ERRVs have specialised capabilities to rescue, initiate first aid and accommodate a large number of persons on board, therefore they could be involved in mass evacuation operations.

21. An idea of bilateral cooperation between MRCCs and Aeronautical SAR Centres was put forward and discussed.

#### **ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

Accept the idea of considering the possibility of cooperation between MRCCs and Aeronautical SAR Centres and the issue of such cooperation was decided to make separate item in Provisional Agenda for the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference.

#### **Agenda item 11: Review of the Conference Report**

23. The delegations considered the Draft Report as prepared by the hosting Party and commented it accordingly.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN:**

Approve the report and send it to the IMO's consideration.

Closing of the 10<sup>th</sup> Black Sea SAR Conference