

11th SAR Conference**October, 21-22.2014 Varna, Bulgaria****Bulgarian Maritime Administration****List of Participants**

Country/ Organi zation	Name	Position	E-mail, phones, fax
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THE 11TH BLACK SEA SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE

21 – 22 October 2014, Varna (Bulgaria)

**AGENDA****1st DAY - 21st October 2014 - Tuesday**

09.00 - 09.30	Registration	All participants
09:30 - 10:00	Opening and welcome, introduction of	

Item 1	<p>participants, approval of the Agenda</p> <p><i>Opening address</i> on behalf of Capt. Zhivko Petrov Executive Director of the Bulgarian Maritime Administration</p> <p><i>Welcome address</i> from Mr. Stoyan Pasev, Varna District Governor</p>	
<p>10:00 – 11:00</p> <p>Item 2</p>	<p>SAR Facilities and Capabilities/SAR Statistics/False Alert Statistics</p> <p>2.1 Ukraine</p> <p>2.2 Georgia</p> <p>2.3 Romania</p> <p>2.4 Turkey</p> <p>2.5 Bulgaria</p>	All participants
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
<p>11:30 – 13:00</p> <p>Item 3</p>	<p>Country Status Reports</p> <p>3.1 Ukraine</p> <p>3.2 Georgia</p> <p>3.3 Romania</p> <p>3.4 Turkey</p> <p>3.5 Bulgaria</p>	All participants
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH	

<p>14:30 – 16:00</p> <p>Item 4</p>	<p>SAR offshore operations in the Black Sea</p> <p>4.1 Ukraine</p> <p>4.2 Georgia</p> <p>4.3 Romania</p> <p>4.4 Turkey</p> <p>4.5 Bulgaria</p>	<p>Ukraine</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>Romania</p> <p>Turkey</p> <p>Bulgaria</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:30</p>	<p><i>Coffee Break</i></p>	
<p>16:30 – 18:00</p> <p>Item 5</p>	<p>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 Passengers Exercises Report/ Mass rescue operations</p> <p>5.1 Ukraine</p> <p>5.2 Georgia</p> <p>5.3 Romania</p> <p>5.4 Turkey</p> <p>5.5 Bulgaria</p>	<p>Ukraine</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>Romania</p> <p>Turkey</p> <p>Bulgaria</p>
<p>19.15-19.30</p>	<p>Transfer from the Panorama Hotel to the</p>	

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	Tavern (walking)	
20:00	OFFICIAL DINNER	

2nd DAY – 22nd October 2014 Wednesday

09:00-09:30 Item 6	Performance of BS MRCC WEB portal	Georgia All participants
09:30 - 10:00 Item 7	Elaboration of the Plan of International Exercises	All participants
10:00 – 10.20 Item 8	IMO SAR Training in the Black Sea (OSC)	Mr Osamu Marumoto
10.20-11.00 Item 9	Other Business - Presentation: Bulgarian Naval Forces - SAR contribute	Cdr Miroslav Koychev

11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:10 Item 9	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation: SAR- training facilities at the Technical University, Varna - Presentation: Potential of Bulgarian VTS for assistance in SAR operations after competition of “VTMIS – Phase 3” project” - Presentation of BULSAR – the Bulgarian Maritime SAR Volunteers. 	Mr Chavdar Ormanov Technical University, Varna Mr Milen Todorov Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company
12:10 – 12:30 Item 10	Discussing Place and Provisional Agenda for the 12th BS SAR Conference and Schedule of BS SAR Conferences 2015-2019	All participants Bulgarian delegation
12.30 - 13.00 Item 11	Review of the Final Conference Report	All participants
13:30 – 14.30	FINAL LUNCH	All participants



THE 11TH BLACK SEA SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE

21 – 22 OCTOBER 2014



Black Sea SAR Conference
Eleventh Session
21 – 22 October 2014

BS/SAR-11/WP.7
Origin: Secretariat
Date: 22 October, 2014

REPORT

OF THE 11TH BLACK SEA SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE

21 – 22 October 2014, Varna (Bulgaria)

Background

1. One of the objectives of the Agreement on Cooperation Regarding Maritime Search and Rescue Services among Black Sea Coastal States, 1998, Ankara, Turkey (hereinafter referred to as the Ankara Agreement) is to promote cooperation and share information, best practice and experiences among Parties thereto in order to provide effective operative coordination of the Search and Rescue (SAR) Services in the Black Sea area. Within this framework, Bulgaria on 21 and 22 October 2014 hosted the 11th Black Sea SAR Conference.

Conference Participants

2. The 11th Black Sea SAR Conference was attended by representatives of the competent authorities from Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine. The Russian Federation delegation was not present. An official letter was received by the Head of Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre(MRCC) Novorossiysk Mr Alexey Kukhol, informing that the Russian delegation had been prevented from attending the Conference due to the reorganization of the Russian State MRCC. Capt. Osamu Marumoto (Technical Officer (NAV), Operational Safety and Human Element, Maritime Safety Division) was invited as representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and attended the Conference. The latter was also attended as observers by representatives of various authorities and institutions from the host country (Bulgaria) involved to a certain extent in the SAR activities.

3. The list of participants, including observers to the Conference is attached as *Annex 1*.

Welcome address

4. The Conference was opened by a welcome speech on behalf of the Minister of Transport, Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria, delivered by Mrs. Anna Natova, Director of the “European Union, International Relations and Projects” Directorate in the Bulgarian Maritime Administration. She stressed upon the Conference objective to facilitate fruitful discussions on the challenges presented by SAR activities in the Black Sea region with the main purpose of improving the maritime safety and protecting those people committed to the seafaring profession. She gave the floor to Mr Stoyan Pasev, Varna District Governor for a welcome note.

5. Mr Pasev also welcomed the participants in the 11th BS SAR Conference and placed emphasis on the vital role of cooperation and coordination in any maritime SAR operation. He was confident that the Conference is an excellent vehicle for the exchange of best practice and for sharing various views and considerations, thus improving cooperation on a national and regional level.

6. The Conference was chaired by capt. Valentin Enchev, Director of the Bulgarian Maritime Administration – Varna Directorate. He welcomed the Conference attendees and after a brief introducing speech gave the floor to the distinguished delegations to introduce themselves.

Approval of the Agenda

7. The provisional Conference Agenda was introduced by the Chairman and approved. The delegates agreed upon the timetable schedule as prepared by the host Party.

8. The Chairman kindly invited the distinguished delegations to proceed through the items of the adopted Agenda and to start deliver their presentations following the order stated therein and opened the floor for comments in relation to his proposal.

Conference Proceedings

9. The Conference proceeded according to the adopted Agenda and followed the timetable attached as *Annex 2*.

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

10. The delegations gave an overview of the false alerts received in their SAR area which were covered by their Country Status Reports.

11. The delegations expressed their views on that issue, highlighting the significance of the information exchange related to false alerts in the Black Sea region with the purpose of reducing the number of such false alerts in the future.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Take note of the information presented.

Agenda item 3: Country Status Reports

12. All the delegations presented their current Status Reports to the attention of the Conference exchanging their views and considerations. Special attention was drawn to the SAR capabilities of Ukraine due to the changed political situation in the Northern part of the Black Sea. Nevertheless Ukraine has lost control over the GMDSS and some AIS shore-based stations in Crimea, and Ukrainian SAR vessels from the Sea of Azov were relocated to the Black Sea, Ukraine still have strong capabilities to cover its SAR region. Thanks to strong cooperation with the Ukrainian Coast Guard, the Azov Sea area is secured by Coast Guard boats. Moreover, a problem exists with the helicopters that are used in SAR operations because they had to be relocated from Simferopol to Odessa and Nikolayev which is the reason to increase the flight distance in order to conduct SAR operations. The Ukrainian delegate summarized that in the remained area of responsibly, Ukraine still has control and enough capabilities to conduct SAR operations.

13. Mr Adian Alexe from the Romanian delegation expressed his concerns about the lack of clarity who exactly has to be notified by the helicopters crossing the flight information region of Simferopol – MRCC Odessa or MRCC Sevastopol. This matter was put forward for further discussions.

14. The Georgian delegate was asked by the IMO representative regarding the coordination between aeronautical and maritime SAR centres of Georgia. The answer was that in case of maritime accidents at sea, MRCC bears full responsibility, while if the accidents are ashore, the responsible authority is the Aviation centre which closely cooperates with the Georgian Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Interior.

15. The Romanian side asked whether there are offshore activities in the Georgian area of responsibility and agreement concluded to that effect. The representative of Georgia explained that there is no such kind of offshore exploration or exploitation.

16. The Romanian delegation highlighted that Romania is well prepared and fulfils the requirement as a coastal state related to the conduct of SAR operations and the intervention in case of major pollution incidents.

17. Furthermore, in reply to IMO representative question, the Turkish delegation outlined that 200 n.m. area coverage is performed by the LRIT system. Besides, the Turkish delegation drew attention to the fact that request for international assistance should be addressed to the Main MRCC in Ankara.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Take note of the information presented and keep this issue in the Agenda for the next Conference meeting.

Agenda item 4: SAR offshore operations in the Black Sea

18. Mr Adrian Alexe, as representative of the private company “Grup Servich Petroliere”, raised an issue that could be classified as a new challenge for the Black Sea region – the offshore activities and related SAR operations in case of need. He emphasized that the cooperation among MRCCs around the Black Sea should be strengthened with the purpose of rendering assistance to the offshore company personnel in distress. A bilateral agreement between MRCC and aeronautical SAR centres should also be initiated. Mr Adrian Alexe pointed out that there is a need a procedure on notification of MRCCs regarding the schedule of rigs’ crew change and the use of helicopters or maritime vessels to be established. Another topic that has been raised is that currently the rig manager SAR responsibilities cover only the area of 500 m. The question is who will take the lead of SAR

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cooperation activities outside this area. Furthermore, Mr Adrian Alexe suggested Maritime Administrations, on behalf of their States, to try to make contact with the offshore rig operators, to discuss the SAR challenges and to encourage them to sign up an agreement in order the latter to be involved in SAR operations in case of an emergency.

19. In addition, the Ukrainian side proposed that the private ships and helicopters giving support to the rigs must be involved in the SAR operations.

20. The Bulgarian delegation asked the IMO representative whether specific IMO Guidelines exist on SAR operations related to offshore activities at sea. The answer of the IMO representative was that the Black Sea Coastal States should submit a proposal to the IMO Secretariat in order this issue to be addressed to all IMO Member States for wider discussions.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

The above-mentioned issue to be further discussed among the Black Sea States.

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 Report/ Mass Rescue Operations (MRO)

21. The delegations delivered detailed presentations on the Plans for Co-operation between their SAR Services and Passenger vessels, the relevant statistics included.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Take note of the information presented.

22. The IMO representative wanted to be enlightened on the status and development of the agreed delimitations of SAR regions between the neighbouring countries. So far the IMO Secretary General has been notified only by Turkey about the agreements concluded with the Russian Federation and Bulgaria.

23. The members of all delegations are of the opinion that this issue is beyond their mandate and generally should be resolved by the corresponding national authorities.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Black Sea States reports on bilateral agreements with the neighbouring countries and problems faced in the process of defining SAR region delimitations to be prepared and presented at the next Conference meeting. The issue to be included in the 12th BS SAR Conference Agenda as a separate item.

Agenda item 6: BS MRCC WEB Portal

24. The delegation from Georgia informed the audience about the development of the Black Sea SAR dedicated Internet portal, created by Georgia and aimed to aggregate all the necessary information, related to SAR activities in the region, namely MRCCs and MRSCs contacts, charts displaying national or regional SAR exercises, statistics, false alerts information, SAR training courses, BS SAR Conference materials, etc.

25. The Bulgarian delegation made a proposal, a video conference feature to be incorporated in the BS MRCC WEB Portal, i.e. chat option to be available. The Georgian delegate confirmed to include this new element.

26. The IMO representative advised the audience that IMO Member States have decided and asked the IMO Secretariat to maintain the equivalent of a portal called GISIS (Global Integrated Shipping Information system) in which information on many SAR issues is available and hopes that all Member States use it. Every Member State is invited to supplement the system with some information updates that could be used for the purposes of SAR cooperation.

27. Furthermore, a proposal was made from the Georgian side every country hosting the annual BS SAR Conference to make its contribution for maintenance and further development of BS MRCC WEB Portal by paying the annual fee of 45 EUR (charges for domain and portal). The Turkish delegates expressed their concerns that they are not able to give a final decision at this Conference meeting.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Proceed with the BS MRCC WEB Portal development (video conference feature to be incorporated) and make updates to the information.

Each Member State to send a letter to Bulgaria stating its final decision about annual fee payment by each Host country till the end of November. Bulgaria, on its part, to summarize the information submitted and to forward it to all Black Sea States.

Agenda item 7: Elaboration of the Plan of International Exercises

28. The delegations put increasing emphasis on the importance of organizing and conducting regional SAR exercises, thus enabling the close cooperation of the Parties and enhancing the experience of the personnel involved in order to provide a successful response to any maritime emergency. However it was particularly underlined that it would be quite difficult such regional exercises to be organized.

29. The Chairman summarized that there was a proposal from the previous Conference meeting the host country to organize a SAR exercise with deployment of SAR assets after the Conference. He gave the floor to the countries' delegates to express their views on the above topic. The discussions followed also highlighted the importance of the matter.

30. Mr Adrian Alexe (Romania) explained that the first initiative a joint SAR exercise to be organized was between the Russian Federation and Ukraine which finally was not conducted. Now Black Sea Coastal States' delegates have to establish another initiative. From his point of view, being a Chairman of the Advisory Group on the Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping to the Black Sea Commission and taking into consideration the strategy for costs' reducing, he suggested to make a proposal to the Black Sea Commission to combine the planned oil spill response Delta exercises with the SAR one. There is a mechanism already set up within the Black Sea Commission oil spill response exercise to be organized every two years. In this case the Black Sea Contingency plan (RCP) will be the legal grounds such an exercise to be conducted. He suggested the Black Sea Coastal States to spend time on considering this proposal and eventually come to a decision. The Georgian and Bulgarian delegation supported the Romanian proposal.

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31. Capt. Anatolii Drozd from the Ukrainian delegation highlighted that in case the Romanian proposal is approved, at this stage, Ukraine will participate only in the SAR activities, because in contrast of the most Black Sea countries, the Ukrainian MRCC has no responsibilities to respond to oil pollution incidents. He will give recommendations to the relevant authorities both SAR and oil spill response activities to be covered by the Ukrainian MRCC in the future.

32. Mr Berescu Serban from the Romanian delegation is of the opinion that the Conference attendees should make decisions on issues which are within the scope of their competencies, i.e. they have to take a final decision about the SAR exercise and then to inform the Black Sea Commission and to invite it to join the SAR exercise. After that the Black Sea Commission will communicate this information to all Member States.

33. Capt. Anatolii Drozd (Ukraine) informed the audience that the Ukrainian delegation hadn't been notified in advance and is not prepared to comment and to discuss the pollution response issues at this Conference.

34. The IMO representative made a comment that Black Sea Coastal States' governments have signed up the binding Ankara Agreement and have to decide jointly to organize SAR exercises. From his point of view the Conference should not deviate from its focus on SAR activities. The main purpose of Art. 8 of the Ankara Agreement is to improve cooperation among Parties. He gave an example with the Far East area where there is an existing multinational cooperation which is not through a multinational binding agreement on SAR like the Ankara Agreement. Countries from the region organize a two-day annual meeting, followed by one-day multinational SAR exercise, the host country assuming the entire organization and inviting the foreign assets to come to the coast line of the host country and to conduct the exercise. As a result friendly relations are established.

35. The Georgian delegation gave as an example the multinational maritime live SAR exercise conducted within the Baltic Sea area annually (BALTIC SAREX). It lasts 5 days and consists of theoretical discussions, practical exercises, feedback and social events.

36. Cdr Miroslav Koychev from the Bulgarian Navy Headquarters clarified that this BALTIC SAREX is organized only by Denmark, while the countries surrounding the Baltic Sea participate with their units. The operational plan is developed according to NATO standards. The organization of such kind of exercise includes three conferences (initial, main and final) requiring a lot of efforts and coordination. The proposal made from the previous BS SAR Conference meetings is each Black Sea State to be a host country. In his opinion, it is almost impossible one Black Sea country to deal with the organization of such an exercise like BALTIC SAREX. The Bulgarian Navy representative proposed

first of all a national exercise to be organized and later on, after getting some experience, a joint exercise between two neighbouring countries to be initiated.

37. From capt. A.Drozdz point of view (Ukraine), at this stage the only possible international SAR exercise that could be organized is between two neighbouring countries, the other ones participating as observers.

38. Mr Mustafa Gumusigne from the Turkish delegation informed the Conference that Turkey has experience in organizing a national exercise in the Aegean Sea and an international exercise in the Mediterranean Sea. Turkey invites international observers to participate therein. In 2013 a national exercise was conducted in the Black Sea area that is planned to take place again in 2015, the national Coast Guard, Navy and civil organization assets being involved. Mr Mustafa Gumusigne said that he would make a suggestion to the relevant competent authorities concerning the participation of the other Black Sea countries in the national exercise as observers. Afterwards, a joint SAR international exercise could be organized in the Black Sea region (among 2 or 3 countries). All Conference delegates will be notified of the results. At the next Conference meeting the attendees could discuss which MRCC will coordinate the SAR operations. In this regard, Mr A.Alexe (Romania) told that the Black Sea States could get experience from the countries in the Northern Europe like Finland, Germany, Denmark, etc. They organize an annual SAR exercise, the host country having the leading role in SAR operations' coordination.

39. Mr Avtandil Gegenava from the Georgian delegation underlined that the Black Sea Commission has Guidelines adopted on the organization of exercises. He is of the opinion that first of all the Black Sea Coastal States have to formulate and adopt such Guidelines and later on to develop a schedule and a plan for conducting international SAR exercises.

40. The Romanian and the Ukrainian delegations asked the IMO representative whether it is possible the IMO Secretariat to share the experience of the other countries in SAR exercises' planning and conducting. Capt. Marumoto (IMO) answered that the most appropriate body within the IMO is the Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communication and Search and Rescue (the NCSR Sub-Committee).

41. Additionally, capt. Marumoto (IMO) explained that a national exercise with involvement of observers could be the starting point which may grow into a multinational SAR exercise. Generally an international Table-top exercise is first prepared. Later on real SAR assets could be involved.

42. Mr Mustafa Gumusigne from the Turkish delegation suggested each country that had planned a national exercise to invite the other Black Sea Coastal States to be part of it as observers. Two

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months before the next Conference, the identified lessons learnt from the national exercises to be sent to the country hosting the forthcoming BS SAR Conference for further discussions. Besides, he proposed starting from year 2016, the country hosting the 13th BS SAR Conference to conduct a bilateral exercise before the Conference takes place and lessons learnt to be discussed at the 13th BS SAR Conference. The latter to be included as a separate item of the agenda of the 13th BS SAR Conference. All delegates supported the Turkish proposal.

43. Moreover, the Ukrainian representative proposed first of all to start with bilateral exercise for instance between Ukraine and Romania, between Turkey and Bulgaria/Georgia. From his perspective, despite the presence of authorities and facilities, at this stage it is very difficult to plan and to conduct a multinational exercise with participation of more countries, due to the lack of practical experience to perform such kind of activities.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

The Conference attendees decided to postpone the final decision on elaboration of the plan of international exercises taking into consideration the above-mentioned proposal of the Turkish delegation.

Agenda item 8: IMO SAR Training in the Black Sea (OSC)

44. Capt. Osamu Marumoto (IMO) delivered a detailed presentation on IMO global updates on SAR and recent IMO technical cooperation activities in the field of SAR in the Black Sea region.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Take note of the information presented.

Agenda item 9: Any other business

The organizations and institutions from the host country delivered the following presentations:

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- Bulgarian Naval Forces – SAR contribute, delivered by Cdr Miroslav Koychev (Bulgarian Navy Headquarters);
- SAR training facilities at the Technical University-Varna, delivered by Mr Chavdar Ormanov (Technical University-Varna);
- Potential of Bulgarian Vessel Traffic System for assistance in SAR operations after completion of “VTMIS-Phase 3” project, delivered by Mr Milen Todorov (Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company);
- Presentation of BULSAR – the Bulgarian Maritime SAR Volunteers.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

Take note of the information presented.

Agenda item 10: Place and Provisional Agenda for the 12th SAR Conference and schedule of BS SAR Conferences 2015-2019

45. Agenda for the next meeting was presented to the attention of the delegates. Some suggestions for changes were made (*Annex 3*).

46. As it was proposed by the Bulgarian delegation at the previous Conference meeting, a schedule for the next 5 years indicating what country will be a host country for each following year in the future had been drawn up and was presented to the attention of the audience for consideration (*Annex 4*).

47. The Turkish delegates outlined that at this stage they could not confirm that Turkey would host the 12th BS SAR Conference due to structural reorganization. However, they declared that they were ready to clarify this issue with the relevant authorities and would officially advise their decision until 1st March 2015.

48. The delegates from Romania agreed with the proposed schedule Romania to be the next host country after Turkey. They informed the audience that once the official letter from Turkey is received, they will bring the matter to the relevant competent authorities in Romania and afterwards will notify the delegations about the final decision.

49. All other delegations agreed with the proposed schedule.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

1. Approve the draft Agenda for the 12th BS SAR Conference;
2. Turkey to notify the other countries by 1st March 2015 about its final decision to host the 12th BS SAR Conference;
3. Taking into consideration the fact that the Russian Federation delegation was not present at the 11th BS SAR Conference meeting, the delegations took the decision the schedule of BS SAR Conferences 2015-2019 and the provisional agenda for the 12th BS SAR Conference to be communicated to all Parties.

Agenda item 11: Review of the Final Conference Report

50. The delegations considered the Draft Report as prepared by the host country and commented it accordingly.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN:

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

51. The Chairman thanked the distinguished delegates for committing their time and expertise to support this Conference.

Closing of the 11th Black Sea SAR Conference

22.10.2014
Chairman
of the 11th BS SAR Conference,
Director of
Bulgarian Maritime Administration – Varna Directorate
Valentin Enchev