

Minutes of the PA Safe Steering Group meeting **DRAFT**

31st Meeting of the International Steering Committee for the Policy Area on Maritime Safety and Security of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region

Oct 17 2024, 11.30 – 16.00 CEST

Gdynia, Poland

1. **Interreg post-2027 Stakeholder Consultation**

Interreg BSR: Elena Kolosova briefed on the new funding period of 2028-2036 and set up questions for the participants of PA Safe and PA Ship.

Discussion among participants on things that work well and issues that have challenges.

2. **Welcome Words and Tour de Table**

Chair: Ms. Edyta Żabicka and Ms. Iwona Chrzęstowska-Kawałek, Polish Ministry of Infrastructure opened the meeting.

Tour de Table: Present Steering Group members were Finland, Germany and Poland. Present guests Norway and Interreg BSR. Also present EUSBSR PACs Safe, Ship and (partly)Secure, as well as DG Regio.

3. **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes from the Last Meeting**

The agenda was approved as such.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

4. **Words from the Polish Chair**

Chair briefed the participants on Polish Presidency activities so far and upcoming plans.

In relation of Polish support to Ukraine, the maritime sector does a lot. Ukraine maritime sector has informed, that the most urgent post war activity for maritime sector will be getting rid of the mines. However, that task is rather a military task than something that Maritime Administrations can do. But the non-military government agencies are willing to assist in EU-funded projects.

5. **Activities of the Policy Area Coordinators**

PACs briefed on the past activities, including participation to European Maritime Day and arranging an Idea Generating Workshop in Svendborg, Denmark in May, Marco-regional strategies days in Brussels and the Idea Generating Workshop on 16.10. in Gdynia.

The progress on the projects were also described and discussed.

Comment from Interreg BSR on this topic: Core projects are still needed, but even small amounts of money can have big results on different projects.

6. **Helcom recommendation 34E/2 revision**

PACs informed on the status on Expert group on AIS and Expert Group on SafeNav HELCOM

Recommendations 34E/2. The work need to involve Baltic Sea Hydrographic Commission (BSHC). PA Safe took over the task group. The status will be presented at HELCOM Maritime as information document (INF). Discussion on the item, e.g. administrating the task group.

7. New web, what to publish / GDPR – DECISION

PACs presented the policy on publishing SG-meeting material at PA Safe webpage, where GDPR issue shall be taken into account. Discussion followed in which the both sides were brought up: openness and transparency as well as not providing personal information.

Conclusion: no e-mails, no phone numbers, no photos in public pages (unless approved by the involved parties). External presentations depend on the presenter's consent. Other material in collaboration platform (internal). What level of publication SG will have?

ACTION: The conclusion will go to the Silent Procedure (10 working days) decision.

Elena's presentation (item 1) may be published. As well as a photo from this meeting.

8. Rules of procedures – Letter of Support procedure & shorter silent approval period – DECISION

PACs presented the updated Rules of Procedure (RoP) template from the National Coordinators Group. The silent procedure time frame is suggested to be at least 5 working days instead of the 10 working days in the current template and PA Safe RoP. After short discussion a proposal of 7 working days was suggested.

ACTION: The proposed update of the number to 7 working days in the silent procedure will go to the current Silent Procedure (10 working days) and if accepted the PA Safe Rules of Procedure will be amended respectively.

PACs presented the current situation of Flagship Projects and Letters of Support. Within Interreg the Flagship status has lost its significance. The status has been "inflated". For centrally funded EU projects a Letter of Support will have a meaning.

Proposed procedure is that the requests will be sent to PACs, which will study the project proposal. Proposed projects shall contain activities and impacts to support PA Safe Actions as well as a request to report the progress to PA Safe. PACs will write comments to accompany and the proposal is sent to Silent Procedure (7 days) with three options: yes / yes + comments / no. An unanimous decision is required.

ACTION: The proposed Procedure will go to the Silent Procedure (10 working days) and if accepted the PA Safe Rules of Procedure will be amended respectively.

9. PA Secure presentation

PA Secure PACs Julia Fredriksson, The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) & Andriy Martynenko, The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) presented PA Secure activities: CBSS Civil Protection Network and PA Secure platform, emphasizing the cross-sectoral coordination and partnerships;

10. Granting HELCOM and Norway Official status as Observers – DECISION

PACs presented the proposed decision to grant Norway / Kystverket (Norwegian Coastal Administration) and HELCOM official status in PA Safe as observers.

ACTION: The status of Observer will be granted to both if accepted by Silent Procedure (10 working days)..

11. Policy Suggestions and other input from the Operational Group

PACs presented the outcome of the Operational Advisory Board meeting, held on 24.9.2024. Keynote speakers introduced Smart Fairways (S-200 "family") and Baltic Sea e-Nav (S-100 "family"), which raised discussion on the wide variety of information available for the ship's bridge as well as cyber security verifying the integrity of this information.

Attendance was good and from industry and administrations.

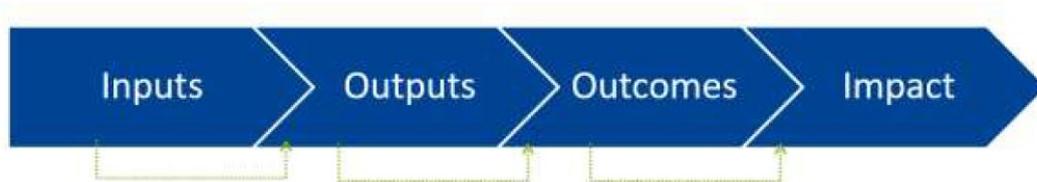
It is important to promote the possibility of the various information for the maritime transport and to support the S-100 "family" as interoperability.

There was a discussion about the Operational Advisory Board, about who is in it and if there are German representatives. In conclusion there are around 100 people invited to the Operational Advisory Board and around 25 people attend each time. Last Operational Advisory Board did not have any policy suggestions, but they had other input for the update and the Steering groups help is needed.

12. EUSBSR Action plan update – PA Safe part

PACs presented the EU SBSR request and guiding documents as well as current plan to update the PA Safe part of the EUSBSR Action Plan.

New guidelines have been published since previous SG meeting in June, with focus on Outcomes and Impacts. Deadline for PA Safe suggestion for updates for EU SBSR NC decision is end of 2024.



Plenty of discussion on PA Safe four Actions proposed. PACs will amend the wording accordingly.

ACTION: The following time plan was suggested:

PACs: Further fine tuning of the four Actions in coming weeks and sent to SG by November 5th

SG: Comments and suggestion sent to PACs by Nov 20th

PACs: Final version sent to SG for Silent Approval (7(?) working days) by Dec 5th.

SG: approves by silent approval by December 16th.

13. Any other business, Next meeting & Conclusion

FI brought into attention the Member States financial situation, which will have an effect on the possibility to travel to face-to-face meetings. Hybrid or Videoconferencing would be preferred.

PACs brought up the possibility to organize face-to-face meetings back-to-back with other meetings, e.g. Annual Forum.

PACs brought up the timeframe for next meeting. In the discussion end of May could be a suitable timeslot. (*Secretary's note: EMD in Cork on 22.-23.5.2025*)

ACTION: PACs will look at and propose time for the next PA Safe Steering Group meeting, possibly in May 2025 and have the SG meetings format and timing as an agenda item.

The Chair closed the meeting at 15:50.