

## DRAFT MINUTES

34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Steering Committee for the Policy Area on Maritime Safety and Security of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region – Formal part

**May 11 2025, 15.00 – 17.00 EEST**

Tallinn, Estonia

### 1. Welcome Words and Tour de Table

Chair Annabel Keerd, Estonia, opened the meeting at 15:00

- Tour de Table

### 2. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes from the Last Meeting

- Agenda approved
- Minutes from the last meeting approved

### 3. Words from the Chair

The chair presented shortly the outcome on the Estonian priorities during EUSBSR Presidency.

- Resilience – the focus on resilience has been obvious. The Annual Forum theme and workshops. In the presentations of project results. In the discussions of the Steering Group and in the work of the coordinators.
- The prioritized formality during the year was the update of the Action Plan. This will be formally in place at the end of May, pending the European Commission acceptance
  - **Recommendation:** SG members should be active in promoting PA Safe Actions in MFF comments. (The upcoming EU-funding content)
  - Comments DG REGIO: This is the 5<sup>th</sup> iteration of the EUSBSR Action Plan. It really outshines the other macro-regions (who are only at their 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration). It is (relatively) short and readable. It has harmonized across PAs and has clear indicators. It builds on what have been done and have action that matches the upcoming MFF.
- One important and welcome development during the year was the Norwegian membership in EUSBSR. PA Safe are happy to have seen active Norwegian participation in the Steering Group as Invited Guests and Observers over some years, and finds the membership a very natural step.
  - DG Regio added: Formal decision May 18 10:00 in Parliament, followed by public communication from the Commission.

### 4. Activities of the Policy Area Coordinators

PAC Seppo Mäkinen from Traficom briefed on activities since the Steering Group meeting in Sopot in October 2025 and on planned activities for the remainder of 2026. Please see presentation!

Comments:

- PACs also attended a workshop on off-shore wind farms and navigation in ice (Action 2)
- At the end of September there will be several parallel events that PACs would like to attend: Final conferences of two projects: MaDaMe & BS e-Nav, as well as the Connect Europe Days. Will try to split responsibility with PACs from PA Ship.
- PACs have been invited to contribute to a Black & Baltic Sea workshop during the

Macro-regional Strategy and Sea-basin Days in Brussels in July.

- The EU (DG Regio, Jyrki Katainen) will launch an Arctic strategy before midsummer. PA Safe should open a discussion
- The EU will also launch a Greenland package during summer

## 5. Status of PA Safe future Coordination

PACs Seppo Mäkinen & Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration (SMA)

Traficom, FI will end the contract at the end of 2026. Seppo will continue PAC work in January 2027 to complete the reporting. Finland is working on finding another Finnish organization to replace Traficom.

- Traficom is currently restricting PAC work by not assigning travel orders.
  - Comment: Maybe because Traficom is lacking funding
  - Seppo: Not quite. The PAC work is 94% paid for with EU-based funding.

SMA has given notice to Ulf Siwe, last day of work on 18 Aug 2026. SMA will also end contract at the end of 2026.

Question: Are you PACs negative to the development?

Ulf: Yes, mainly because we, you, the EUSBSR, all think that PA Safe works great and is a role model for other PAs. Don't change a winning team. However, the people making the decisions are not involved in our work. However, we hope to see two competent organizations taking over. We are engaged in the recruitment of these and we will hand over all the things we have and as much of our experiences. And the new PACs will add to the PA with their new ideas. Thus, we are hopeful.

[EUSBSR will run a formal procedure to invite other countries to replace Sweden as co-PAC.]

## 6. Presentation of projects

PAC Ulf Siwe

- Ulf presented shortly the projects approved under PA Safe "umbrella", NELSON and WINMOS IV, both having CEF financing. (Central DG MOVE money)
- New project DIGIMARIS was introduced shortly and accepted under PA Safe "umbrella".

## 7. Ammunition and toxic waste dumps

PA Hazards PAC: Louise Floman, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management

Louise presented PA Hazards and munition / UXO projects. (see presentation). High interest from the Steering Group which brought maritime safety aspects to the discussion, which complements the normal environmental discussions that PA Hazards has.

The biggest challenge is to get uptake of the solutions across all the countries.

There was a tour de table on who is responsible in each country and PA Hazards received a lot of new contacts.

## 8. Policy Suggestions and other input from the Operational Group

PAC: Seppo Mäkinen

- Seppo presented shortly the input from the Operational Group meetings. These were:
  - Common Baltic Sea situational awareness centres (project led by Finnish Coast Guard)
  - Chemical accident/incident preparedness
  - IMO maritime services implementation
  - Harmonizing risk assessment

- Future funding possibilities.

## 9. 1-2-1 meetings

PACs Seppo Mäkinen & Ulf Siwe

- Dissemination of individual meetings should NOT be published on the web. Info to be sent by e-mails.
- Ulf explained shortly the best practices ideas:
  - Remote platforms/buoys for different instruments (EE)
    - And for different purposes, e.g. environmental, safety, security
    - Ongoing national projects (one with LV)
  - Prioritize implementation of (IMO Maritime) Services with the end-user benefit in mind. (NO)
    - E.g. route-based services.
  - National strategy for S-100 (SE)
    - Process started, involving many authorities
  - The national centre for maritime safety – cross-authority operations (DE)
  - Annual meetings bringing all operational authorities on maritime safety together to discuss challenges and improvements. Bi-annual meetings with ship-owners. (FI)
  - Sharing Open Risk II implementation experience across the region (FI)
  - e-certificates (perhaps) (DK)

### DECISIONS

- 1-2-1 meetings will be part of the PA Safe SG work.
- Each country/SG member(s) decides if they want one or two meetings per year, with the flexibility to change that number at any time.

## 10. Steering Group member responsibility – discussion and possible decision

PAC Ulf Siwe

Ulf presented two ideas for the continuity of SG work in member states

- Every Steering Group member should have a national back-up
- Steering Group members leaving the position should be present in the introduction meeting of the new SG member

**DECISION:** The Steering Group approved the ideas and consider them *recommendations*. No formal decision of making them mandatory was taken. Such a decision might affect the Rules of Procedures.

## 11. Any other business, Next meeting & Conclusion

Chair & PACs

- Next Operational Advisory group on-line meeting is planned on Tue Oct 20
- Next SG on-line meeting is planned on Tue Nov 10

The Steering Group thanked PAC Ulf Siwe for his contribution over the years.

The meeting was closed at 17:15