

32^d 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 27 2025, commencing at 12.30 CEST, Online meeting, DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome Words and Tour de Table

PAC Ulf Siwe welcomed participants

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

Participants (in alphabetic country order)

EE: Ms. Annabel Keerd, Mr. Teemo Toomsalu

FI: Mr. Juha Korsi, Mr. Valtteri Laine

DE: Ms. Dina Matusova

PL (Chair): Ms. Edyta Żabicka and Ms. Iwona Chrzęstowska-Kawałek

EU DG Regio: Mr. Petri Koistinen

HELCOM: Ms. Katarina Viik

PA Safe: Mr. Seppo Mäkinen, Mr. Ulf Siwe

PA Ship: Mr. Sami Vesterinen

In Tour de Table participants shortly pointed out the "hot" issues in their country in relation to PA Safe activities. Following issues were brought up: Baltic Sea shadow fleet, global taxation, offshore windfarms - plenty of planning, digitalization, capacity at the agency (people and time), underwater infra, GNSS spoofing and jamming Interreg strategy programs, 5th biannual implementation report.

Link to the 5th biannual report

- [5th Report on EU Macro-Regional Strategies - EUSBSR](#)

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

Agenda was approved

The Minutes of the previous meeting on 17.10.2024 in Gdynia, PL.

3. Words from the Polish Chair

Chair Ms. Edyta Żabicka briefed EUSBSR chair presidency (on July 1st 2024) activities, as commitment of implementation of goals of EUSBSR: Visibility of the strategy, overall situation, strengthen BSR. Maritime infrastructure, met with Ukrainians, Poland and Ukraine Cooperation. Poland stays committed to Ukraine and sustainable development. Rebuilding Ukraine. Smooth Update of the action plan. Consultation and opinions from many stakeholders, efficient work,

Enhance communications and visibility was realized within PA Safe in idea generation workshop and offshore wind energy (80 participants) in Tri-Cities area.

In discussion EE brought up a maritime recovery plan for Ukraine. PACs found it important to organize a meeting on Ukraine maritime recovery, and will do so during 2025.

4. Activities of the Policy Area Coordinators

PAC Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration presented the activities since Oct 2024 meeting and upcoming work. See the slides.

EU DG Regio Petri Koistinen added:

- Annual forum 2026 schedule: 9-10.6. Tallinn, [EUSBSR Annual Forum 2026 - EUSBSR](#)
- Request from DG Mare: Common workshop at Macro-Regional Strategies and Sea-Basin days 24.-26.9.2025 in Brussels- maritime internal security participation and speakers
 - PAC Ulf Siwe proposed a speaker from ORMOBASS project, since GNSS back-up could be relevant for the workshop.

PAC Seppo Mäkinen: Learned at European Maritime Day 21.-23.5.2025 that underwater infra is classified and not available publicly, which means that workshops and public discussion is difficult to organize within PA Safe.

5. EUSBSR Action plan update – PA Safe

PAC Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration presented the current status and upcoming steps – see slides.

The format of the updated Action Plan will be shortened and the new template will be available for PAs to work on from July to October 2025. PACs are also waiting for the decision on PAs continuation [*PAC note: EU SBSR Presidency informed on May 28th 2025, that all PAs will continue*]

PAC Ulf Siwe also presented the Maritime security issue, whether to keep Maritime Security as part of the task of PA Safe. A discussion followed.

- Difficult to access information, A potential OpenRisk III project could address the shadow fleet, if funding and accessibility is available. Also, CBSS is interested, which would require a new type of co-operation.
- PAC: PA Secure where CBSS is co-coordinator, is focusing only on land-based and civil security.
- Report on "Wise persons" chaired by former EE president Mr. Toomas Ilves. Council will focus on more security issues at CBSS. Financing comes from Interreg & Horizon, not in the hard security. Also, the theme of the Annual Forum 2025 is related to security;
- PA Safe should limit to open maritime issues. More doable and wise. More relevant to maritime safety.
 - Supported
 - Samples: incidents in the sea bottom, ORMOBASS project looks into how to prevent jamming and spoofing
- Difficult issue - to take home and discuss nationally

The decision on Maritime security issue will be brought to the next meeting in fall, tentatively on Oct 28th 2025.

6. Helcom recommendation 34E/2 revision

PAC Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration presented the process behind the new draft and summarized its content, see slides.

All steering group members supported.

Decision: PA Safe steering group is supporting HELCOM recommendation 34E/2 revision.

7. PAC & SG participation on project conferences

PAC Seppo Mäkinen, Finish Transport and Communication Agency (Traficom) presented the current practice, in which at least one PAC (in turn) will participate to projects' workshops and major meetings. Discussion and decision on guideline.

Recommendation: PACs are supported to participate into project's workshops and major meetings. Steering Group members are encouraged to participate, when the event is in their home country.

8. SG meetings

PAC Seppo Mäkinen, Finish Transport and Communication Agency (Traficom) presented the current practice, in which one SG meeting is held on-site (face-to-face) back-to-back with other EU SBSR events and on is held on-line.

Next PA Safe SG meeting is a face-to-face meeting back-to-back with Annual Forum 2025 in Sopot on Oct 29.-30. 2025.

During Estonian Presidency the Annual Forum 2026 will be held on Jun 9.-10.2026, and the intention is to have the Annual Forum at the end of each Member State's Presidency.

Decision: SG continues meeting twice a year, one meeting face-to-face back-to-back with a EUSBSR event and one meeting on-line.

PAC Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration proposed to have one-to-one (or many from one Member State) discussion to keep SG members informed about PA activities. PACs will also collect the priorities of different PA Safe matters for each country, and get input to the future work including the Action Plan.

These discussions are planned once every year and additional discussion to new SG members.

In discussion proposal was supported and also proposed to be piloted. Based on the experiences a decision on the continuation shall be made after one year.

Decision: Piloting an hour one-to-one on-line meetings between June 30 and Annual Forum 2025, with the new Action Plan template in the agenda. It is supported to bring colleagues to the meeting.

9. Presentation of projects

PAC Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration presented a summarized status of PA Safe projects, with the help of meeting participants active in projects, see slides.

10. Policy Suggestions and other input from the Operational Group

PACs Seppo Mäkinen and Ulf Siwe briefed.

Good turnout (26 + 3 PACs) on Operational Advisory Group meeting on Apr 9th, 2025.

PA Safe will support applications for Project Platforms, as the 2nd call on Platform funding opened on May 21st 2025.

11. Any other business, Next meeting & Conclusion

EE briefed their planned presidency activities: Finalizing the Action Plan, Green shipping corridors, Critical infrastructure, shallow fleet, Maritime Data infrastructure, Ukraine issues.

PAC Ulf Siwe, Swedish Maritime Administration informed the meeting on the changes taking place later this year in SMA organisation and the possible changes in PAC work. Swedish SG member is missing currently due to these changes.

Next meeting in fall, face-to-face will be held back-to-back with Annual Forum 2025.

Decision: the fall meeting will be held on Tue Oct 28th in the afternoon, noting also PA Transport (EE Annabel Keerd) SG meeting timing.

Chair closed the meeting at 14:34 (CEST) and thanked everyone and hoped to see everyone in Sopot.