

DECISION 1/2018 OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE UNDER THE TWA

Adopted on 22 May 2018 in Sopot, Poland

Annual Strategic Plan 2019

Introduction

In recent years, European cooperation in the maritime domain has been in the spotlight and has substantially progressed, mainly due to the efforts of the EU Institutions and the relevant EU Agencies. Frontex, EMSA and EFCA, as core of the European interagency cooperation on coast guard function have been working together to provide the relevant stakeholders with the added value expected when performing cross sector initiatives.

The long-term vision and objectives for this cooperation were identified by the co-legislator in 2016 when a common article for the three Agencies' founding regulation was adopted. The Annual Strategic Plan is meant to present the high level objectives for the year to come to implement the above mentioned vision. The Plan is being submitted for consultation and approved by the respective governing boards of the three Agencies.

Building upon the experience and lessons learnt during the first year of implementation of the Tripartite Working Arrangement (TWA), the three Agencies have taken on board feedback from the relevant stakeholders, received throughout the year and more specifically during the first Annual European coast guard event, which helped fine-tuning and define the objectives for the cooperation in 2019. The input of the relevant Member State national competent authorities is essential for the planning and the implementation of the activities decided in each of the work areas identified for cooperation of the three Agencies.

One main area for cooperation in 2019 will be the drafting of a practical Handbook on European cooperation on coast guard functions. The three Agencies in cooperation with the relevant competent National Authorities will support the European Commission to complete the Handbook covering the five areas for cooperation: information sharing, surveillance and communication services, capacity building, risk analysis and capacity sharing.

Priorities for 2019 (outline)

Strategic / Crosscutting

- To hold the annual joint European Coast Guard event under the coordination of Frontex in line with the experience gained at the previous annual event.
- To promote further European cooperation with national authorities on coast guard functions considering the specificities of EU sea basins.
- To carry out coordinated communication/media activities related to the implementation of the European interagency cooperation on coast guard functions.
- To harmonise the format and implementing modalities of the interagency Service Level Agreements.

Information sharing

- To further enhance cooperation among the Agencies in the field of information sharing.
- To provide a maritime awareness picture in customized interfaces that include/integrate all relevant data sources available across policy areas.
- To continue working on analysing information needs and any gap in dialogue with relevant national authorities, continuing to ensure a sound and secure implementation of data access rights.
- To further work on common tools for data mining and exploitation (such as Activity based monitoring tools and historical data analysis tools).

Surveillance and communication services

- To further enhance cooperation between the three Agencies in the area of surveillance and communication services.
- To analyse the possibility to increase specific surveillance and communication services to relevant stakeholders.
- Follow up the developments of Air Traffic Control rules for RPAS To avoid duplication and overlap of surveillance and communication cross-sectoral services, in particular in the area of RPAS services.

Capacity building

- To continue collecting and assessing cross-sector training needs of national authorities performing coast guard functions.
- To coordinate the preparation of the Handbook on European Cooperation on Coastguard Functions

- To ensure consistency between the ECGFF Sectorial Qualification Framework and the relevant EU and international standards.
- To provide joint cross-sectoral training by the relevant Agencies related to coast guard functions.
- To map the ongoing relevant cross-sectoral cooperation projects with third countries.
- To jointly support future EU capacity building cooperation programmes with third countries, where relevant.

Risk Analysis

- To further enhance cooperation between the relevant EU agencies on cross-sector risk management cooperation.
- To enhance tailored cross-sector risk analysis services provided to relevant authorities responsible for coast guard functions where relevant and according to each Agency's mandate.

Capacity sharing

- To elaborate a concept for a European multipurpose maritime activities while using existing, planned, outsourced capacity of each Agency.
- To further enhance cooperation modalities between EU Agencies on capacity sharing issues including sharing assets beyond multipurpose operations.
- To identify the legal and operational regimes that apply to multipurpose operations led/supported by the Agencies;
- To further enhance cooperation between Agencies and National Operational Centres for exchange of information in real time and provision of responses to threats in the areas of operation (also relevant for Area 1).