



## 6TH BLACK SEA SEARCH AND RESCUE CONFERENCE 12-13 NOVEMBER 2009



BS SAR CONFERENCE  
6 th session  
Agenda item 7

BS SAR 6/7  
12-13 November 2009  
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### **Background**

1. To enhance the efficiency of the Regional SAR services and to improve co-operation amongst the SAR services of the Black Sea Coastal States, the sixth Black Sea SAR Conference was organized and representatives of IMO, EMSA, BS Commission and Azerbaijan were also invited to participate accordingly.

### **Conference Participants**

2. Six countries were invited to the 6<sup>th</sup> Black Sea SAR Conference and four member countries participated. The Conference was attended by:

- a) delegates from Georgia, Romania, Turkey (all being senior representatives from each country's national authorities responsible for search and rescue and maritime administration) and Ukraine represented by HE Consul of Ukraine Capt. V. Bondarenko;
- b) Russia and Bulgaria did not attend;
- c) Black Sea Commission attended;
- d) Azerbaijan Maritime Transport Administration attended as guest;
- e) additional delegates from the host country (Georgia-Coast Guard, ESD MiAffairs and Black Sea Environmental Protection Inspection MoE) also attended as observers

A complete list of all participants, including observers to the Conference is contained in **Annex 1**.

### **Opening Ceremony**

3. The conference was opened, on behalf of Georgia, by Capt. Valerian Imnaishvili, UTA MTD, who, in welcoming the delegates, emphasized the vital role of co-ordination and co-operation in any search and rescue operations. He expressed assurance that the Conference would make a significant contribution in and provide a model for future regional co-operation for maritime search and rescue in the Black Sea and the co-ordination of all related activities. He wished to have a successful conference for the delegates.

4. According to the established tradition the Host Authorities presided over the conference and delegates accepted and nominated Captain Valerian Imnaishvili as the Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> BS SAR Conference.



5. Chairman Captain Valerian Imnaishvili asked the floor from participants to introduce themselves and informed that Bulgarian and Russian delegation were not in a position to participate in the Conference due to objective reasons.

6. Chairman proposed to follow the Agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 1**

##### **Doc. 01/01 Approval of Provisional Agenda for the 6th Black Sea SAR Conference**

The conference Agenda was announced and the delegates were proposed to supplement and accept it.

The draft conference agenda was approved; the conference followed the timetable shown at **Annex 2**.

The conference proceeded according to the schedule in accordance with the agenda

#### **Agenda Item 2**

##### **Doc. 02/01 Yearly reports according to the COMSAR/Circ.29**

##### **Doc. 02/02, Doc. 02/03, Doc. 02/04**

The delegates were proposed to submit their reports regarding this issue and the delegations of Turkey and Georgia have presented their reports.

##### **Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to propose the delegations of Bulgaria, Russia and Ukraine to submit their reports in electronic version just after the Conference completion.

#### **Agenda Item 3**

##### **Doc.03/01 Country SAR Status Reports**

##### **Doc.03/02, Doc.03/03, Doc.03/04**

The delegations of Romania, Turkey and Georgia have presented their reports in PDF

##### **Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to propose the delegations of Bulgaria, Russia and Ukraine to submit their reports in electronic version just after the Conference completion.

#### **Agenda Item 4**

##### **Doc.04/01 Development the joint Black Sea SAR Training Courses**

Georgian delegation has reported that, having analyzed the problem of MRCC specialists training and having got added evidence that there are serious problems in organization of the specialists' training regarding seeking of donors for this kind of activity and taking into consideration lack of prosperity of the Swedish proposal, has taken its own steps and in February-March 2009 has successfully arranged MRCC specialists' training with the help of



Canada governmental agency. The training courses were held in accordance with a program approved by Canada, and comply with the existing IMO model courses 3.13 and 3.14.

Georgia would like to propose with the help of Canada program the arrangement of joint international training courses in Georgia as per the following scheme: Canadian party bears the expenses connected with the work of instructors from Canada and the trainees pay their own expenses (travel, accommodation, victuality). This scheme has its own advantages – the expenses regarding accommodation and victuality in Georgia are much lower than in other countries of the region, besides, there are no visa formalities for coming to Georgia. The participants of the Conference can see this from their own experience.

Romanian Party asked a question regarding IMO approval of this program, Georgian Party replied that if the Conference accepts this proposal, we can ask Canadian colleagues to solve this issue with IMO.

#### **Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to inform the absent Parties of Bulgaria, Russia and Ukraine as appropriate and in the case all the Parties agree, Georgia will apply to Canadian colleagues for discussion of the IMO approval of the program.

#### **Agenda Item 5**

##### **Doc.05/01 [www.BSMRCC.net](http://www.BSMRCC.net) Presentation**

Georgian party presented a web-page in action and provided access passwords to all Parties. The web-page is proposed to be used as regional information resource for SAR issues and also for on-line conferences for information exchange and action coordination when conducting joint operations.

#### **Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to start use of web-page in trial regime and take a final decision after a certain period.

#### **Agenda Item 6**

##### **Doc. 06/01 MONIFO Project (joint AIS system of the Black Sea Countries)**

The project presentation was carried out by Mr. George Balashov (Black Sea Commission). The main target of the project is to establish a regional information resource (server), where the information regarding monitoring of pollution of the Black Sea from vessels will be available, including monitoring of delivery waste in ports, spills of any substances, vessels' traffic (AIS) etc.

Georgia attracted the delegates' attention that we speak about one project – establishment of the Black Sea monitoring information system, and the regional AIS will be one of its components.

Georgia also declared that supports this project, however, under some conditions: a) the server should be placed either in Turkey or in Bulgaria, b) AIS will be one of the component of the regional BSIS Information System, and not the separate system, c) the server will not be separated into several servers to be placed in different countries and welcomes the participants to support her proposal.



### **Action to be taken**

Georgia proposed and the Conference supported the proposal to inform all the participants and ask them to submit electronic versions of their opinions and upon the receipt of these to take the final decision.

### **Agenda Item 7**

#### **Doc.07/01 Elaboration of the Plan of International Exercises**

Georgia proposed to harmonize SAR exercises with the schedule of exercises carried out in the framework of Regional Cooperation Plan on emergency spills response. In the opinion of Georgia in most cases SAR operation at sea precedes OPSR operation, and harmonization of the exercises will let improve the quality of MRCC-OPSR operations. The exercise schedule is given in Annex 3.

### **Action to be taken**

The Conference accepted the proposal and took a decision to inform all the participants and take the schedule for guidance.

### **Agenda Item 8**

#### **Doc.08/01 RODELTA 2009 experience**

Romania has demonstrated the video regarding the exercise RODELTA 2009 and submitted its comments and proposals.

Georgia has also submitted its experience and mentioned that there are some serious problems, in particular: a) the problem of codes of the harmonized system of codification of goods, which is used by all custom authorities of the region, as, for instance, such equipment as skimmers and booms are not included in the system, and improper codification causes problems during custom clearance; b) the Regional Plan provides that the Parties must settle internal immigration and custom procedures in the case of rendering international assistance, however, as practice shows, it is not implemented for regional exercises and nobody knows how it will work in the conditions of a real incident. (For instance, the actual delivery of the equipment of Georgian participants of RODELTA 2009 exercise was carried out for the distance of 1500 km within 48 hrs, however preparatory formalities as in Georgia so as in Romania took 72 hrs, and additional 48 hrs for obtaining visa at Romania Consulate in Istanbul). Taking into consideration the above there is a ground to believe that in real circumstances the assistance can arrive with 7 days delay, so what efficiency can we expect from such assistance.

Georgia believes that solution of this problem should be looked for both on the level of internal procedures and on the level of international coordination. For instance, ETA of salvage tug from Georgian ports to the farthest point of Georgian SAR zone can take 8-10 hrs, while the tugs from Samsun or Trabzon can arrive in 3-5 hrs.

### **Action to be taken**



Georgia proposed the Conference to place on [www.bsmrcc.net](http://www.bsmrcc.net) the information (chart) of SAR units with indication of the time and procedure of mobilization and contact details, and work out the mobilization process during the next communication exercise.

#### **Agenda Item 9**

##### **Doc.09/01 BS SAR Conference futures (transformation in to Joint BS SAR Committee)**

Georgia proposed to raise the status of our conference and transform it into **Joint BS SAR Committee**, the Committee will be able to develop own regulations and procedures, make recommendations, when necessary, and make up own relationships with international donor and consulting agencies and convene SAR Conferences. The chairmanship is proposed to be organized in accordance with rotation principle and circulation of documents to be carried out via [www.bsmrcc.net](http://www.bsmrcc.net) in electronic version.

Romania raised a question regarding the legal status, as not all the countries have ratified the Ankara agreement.

Georgia confirmed that does not see any obstacles, as joint SAR Committee is stipulated for by the appropriate IMO Conventions and IAMSAR Guidance, however in some other format, but it is a formal condition. The main point is that our conference will work and be of benefit to the incidents at sea and not to depend on the possibilities of some country to host the Conference (having the **Joint BS SAR Committee** in the case a country cannot host the conference, it can be held in on-line regime at [www.bsmrcc.net](http://www.bsmrcc.net)). We have come to a principally new stage of SAR activities development, which has no precedents and now we can create innovations, and this is the main.

#### **Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to inform all the parties concerned and start consultations regarding this issue.

#### **Agenda Item 10**

##### **Doc.10/01 BS SAR Plan**

Georgia attracted the delegates' attention to the necessity of having regional SAR instrument and proposes to develop a Regional SAR Plan and with the purpose of saving human and financial resources it is proposed to use the initial draft of Georgian national SAR Plan, which was developed by Canada SAR experts and later adopted to national conditions. The project meets IMO requirements. It is very difficult in our circumstances to start developing of such serious document from the blank page, so we propose to take a ready document as a basic draft and adopt it to the regional conditions, each Party can use a definite colour for its comments and amendments, remarks and recommendations and insert them in the draft version (version 0), however, the deleted lines / paragraphs are better to be crossed out, but not deleted in order not to lose succession. The corrected versions are to be sent to us or to **Joint BS SAR Committee** (if we agree to establish this), further all the corrections will be consolidated and the final draft will be returned to you for further discussion. The question regarding legal status of such



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document can be raised, however we do not see any serious problems, we can freely develop any documents, which will be used by us as Guidance.

**Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to take this proposal as a basis, inform all the parties concerned and start work at the final document.

**Agenda Item 11**

**Doc.11/01 Emblem of the Black Sea SAR Conference**

Georgia proposes to create an emblem of the Conference / Committee and proposes three versions for consideration. Besides, the delegates are asked to submit their own versions of the emblem.

**Action to be taken**

The Conference decided to consider the proposed projects and welcomes all the Parties to propose new projects of the symbols.

**Agenda Item 12**

**Place of the next 7-th SAR Conference / Committee**

**Action to be taken**

The Conference invited all the Parties and Bulgaria first of all to host the next 7<sup>th</sup> SAR Conference.