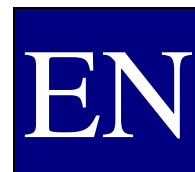




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on integration of Maritime Surveillance

Towards the integration of maritime surveillance: A common information sharing environment for the EU maritime domain

*3092nd GENERAL AFFAIRS Council meeting
Brussels, 23 May 2011*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council of the European Union

HAVING REGARD TO

- the Commission Communication on an Integrated Maritime Policy for the European Union and Action Plan, presented on 10 October 2007¹;
- the Commission Communication “Towards the integration of maritime surveillance: A common information sharing environment for the EU maritime domain”, presented on 20 October 2009²;
- the Commission Communication on a Draft Roadmap towards establishing the Common Information Sharing Environment for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain, presented on 21 October 2010³;
- the Presidency conclusions of the European Council adopted on 14 December 2007⁴;
- the Council conclusions on the Integrated Maritime policy adopted on 8 December 2008⁵;

¹ doc. 14631/07.
² doc. 14365/09.
³ doc. 15361/10.
⁴ doc. 16616/07, §58.
⁵ doc. 16503/1/08 REV 1.

P R E S S

- the Council conclusions on the Integrated Maritime policy adopted on 17 November 2009⁶;
- the Council conclusions on Integration of Maritime Surveillance adopted on 17 November 2009⁷;
- the Council conclusions on Integrated Maritime Policy adopted on 14 June 2010⁸.
- RECALLING that the Integration of Maritime Surveillance across sectors and borders is a cross-sectoral tool of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy and is an important objective as reflected by the Council in November 2009;
- CONSIDERING that the EU maritime domain regionally faces different and mounting challenges in all regional sea basins and that the integration of maritime surveillance, as well as maritime spatial planning, marine knowledge and sea basin strategies as important strands of the Integrated Maritime Policy, may well contribute to meeting these regional challenges;
- UNDERLINING that increased effectiveness and cost efficiency in ensuring the fundamental conditions for safe, secure and sustainable activities at sea through the establishment of the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) based on relevant EU and national legislation are important for supporting overall safety and security at sea in all sea basins, sound economic growth, sustainable mobility, employment and innovation in an eco-efficient way;
- RECALLING the previous Council Conclusions inviting the Commission to submit to the Council a roadmap towards establishing a Common Information Sharing Environment for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain;
- REAFFIRMING the need for the Commission to identify the financial resources needed for the materialization of the integration of maritime surveillance.
- UNDERLINING the need to avoid excessive and disproportional administrative burden for the relevant authorities, taking into account the scope of application for land-locked Member States.

THE COUNCIL THEREFORE;

1. WELCOMES the Commission’s communication “ Draft Roadmap towards establishing the Common Information Sharing Environment for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain” and SUPPORTS the further elaboration of the 6 steps proposed in the roadmap, bearing in mind that some of these steps could be addressed in parallel, as appropriate, to avoid delays;
2. SUPPORTS the further development of the Common Information Sharing Environment of the EU maritime domain, built on a decentralised information exchange framework interlinking relevant user communities, based on the principle of ”sharing on a need-to-know and responsibility-to-share basis“;

⁶ doc. 15175/1/09 REV 1.

⁷ doc. 15176/2/09 REV 2.

⁸ doc. 10300/10

3. EMPHASIZES the need to take all necessary measures to ensure the confidentiality and security of data exchanged, taking into account *inter alia* the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality, citizen security in compliance with personal data protection rules, as well as international law;
4. STRESSES the need to take into account the results from ongoing pilot projects, such as Bluemassmed and MARSUNO, and of other relevant cross-sectoral projects, such as PT MARSUR and EUROSUR, as a contribution to further collaboration in all Sea basins;
5. WELCOMES the establishment of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with an advisory role on technical issues related to the creation of the Common Information Sharing Environment, and CALLS UPON relevant user communities at national and EU level to contribute with their sectoral expertise to the work of the TAG;
6. ENCOURAGES the examination of cost-effective measures to ensure an effective and efficient management of the Common Information Sharing Environment for the surveillance of the EU maritime domain, both at technical and at administrative level;
7. EMPHASIZES the importance of coordination, at EU and at national level, in order to promote coherence and compatibility and to maintain overview and transparency in the many potentially interrelated initiatives and developments at Union level; INVITES the Commission to intensify its efforts in this respect and to keep Member States, user communities both civilian and military and EU and EEA actors informed of relevant developments by regularly submitting a complete report to the Member States Expert Group on Maritime Surveillance as a forum for coordination, and by informing relevant Council working bodies."

