

MedCruise attended the 60th SAGMAS meeting, March 2021

The 60th meeting of Stakeholders Advisory Group on Maritime Security (SAGMAS) took place on 4 March 2021 online. The meeting was chaired by Mr Carlos Mestre, Head of Unit A.5 Security of the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG MOVE).

The meeting started with a welcome from the Chairman and the adoption of the agenda.

Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on maritime security: relief measures and recovery process

The Commission informed that despite certain improvements of the situation caused by the COVID-19 outbreak during summer 2020, the persistence and, in certain cases, the aggravation of the effects of the COVID-19 have obliged the Member States to maintain and/or reinforce the measures taken to prevent the spread of the pandemic. Therefore, the Commission published a proposal on 18 January 2021, which was adopted by the European Council and by the European Parliament and published in the European Journal on 16 February 2021 as Regulation (EU) 2021/267 *laying down specific and temporary measures in view of the persistence of the COVID-19 crisis concerning the renewal or extension of certain certificates, licences and authorisations, the postponement of certain periodic checks and periodic training in certain areas of transport legislation and the extension of certain periods referred to in Regulation (EU) 2020/698*. The measures of Regulation (EU) 2021/267 are similar to those in Regulation (EU) 2020/698. It concerns the assessments, plans and renewals between 1 September 2020 and 30 June 2021 and extends the deadline till 30 September 2021. The same extension is provided for maritime exercises.

As regards the recovery, the Commission stated that it can be an opportunity for the security dimension to contribute to the resilience of the transport sector,

for example, through the modernisation of the equipment. Hence, the Commission encouraged the members of the Advisory Group to be also attentive to possible opportunities that may arise throughout the COVID-19 process.

Passenger ship security

The Chairman updated the SAGMAS members on the working group meeting held on 26 January 2021 with the Member States on the methodology for a risk assessment on passenger ships security. He reminded and emphasised that the intention, as part of this exercise, is to carry out an EU level risk assessment which will fit into the guidance material that should be developed, with the objective of creating a common understanding of the risks faced in passenger ship security. The basis for this meeting with Member States was a concept note that included a first draft of the methodology.

The Chairman noted the importance of having the stakeholders involved in this process, for that reason the Commission intends to organise a working group meeting with them in order to receive their inputs and their contributions to the methodology. He informed that the meeting is scheduled for 19 May 2021. Once there is an agreement on the methodology to be used, the Commission intends to hold a meeting with Member States in a classified setting. The Chairman reiterated that the final objective of the Commission is to produce a non-binding guidance, this is, identifying good solutions and to come to a common understanding of the risks and threats against passenger ship security. He also mentioned that the Commission is looking at different elements and that among these elements there is the use of technology.

Finally, the European Organisation for Security (EOS) made a presentation on technology and equipment in



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the context of passenger ship security.

Cybersecurity

The Commission invited the Port of Bremen to make a presentation on its experience report of cybersecurity measures and activities put in place in the Port as the Commission had found it a very good

practice.

Any other business

The next SAGMAS meeting is scheduled for 3 June 2021, either physically or virtually, to be duly confirmed. •