

MedCruise attended the 61st SAGMAS meeting, June 2021, and the Working Group meeting on a Risk assessment methodology for passenger ship security, May 2021

The 61st meeting of Stakeholders Advisory Group on Maritime Security (SAGMAS) took place on 3 June 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 reminded its proposal published 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 continues to follow-up the recovery plans and 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. The Commission informed that the deadline for Member States to submit their final version of the plans was on 30 April 2021 and commented that many of the plans are public and available. The Commission has two months to assess

the plans after receiving them.

As expected, the focus of the national recovery and resilience plans is on the green and digital transitions; sustainable transport is an important beneficiary in this regard. The development of capacities and cybersecurity is an important point.

The Commission stated that there are possibilities in terms of transport security benefiting from the recovering resilience facilities and encouraged the members of the Advisory Group to be also attentive to possible investment projects that may arise throughout the COVID-19 process.

Passenger ship security: Update on development of guidance

The Chairman updated the SAGMAS members on the work that the Commission is doing as far as the passenger ship security is concerned, and in particular in relation to the development of the risk assessment. He reminded about the intention of the Commission to develop an EU level risk assessment process to be fitted into the definition of the Guidance material to be developed with the objective of building, at least, a common understanding of the risks faced in passenger ship security. To this end, he informed that on 19 May 2021, the Commission organised a working group meeting with the Member States and the Stakeholders, meeting in which MedCruise also participated, to kick off this work. The objective of the meeting was specifically to discuss the methodology, without entering the substance about the assessment itself but focussing on the methodological approach to be used for this risk assessment. The discussion was based on a concept note prepared by the Commission. The chairman noted the important feedback received from the participants and thanked them for their contribution.

He explained that the working group went on to the traditional elements, which are threat, impact, vulnerability and the risk coring phases, as well as preliminary work on the possible list of threat scenarios that should be allowed for the implementation of the risk assessment once arrived at the phase when feedbacks will be needed.

In terms of the next steps, the Charmain informed that the Commission will continue the discussions with the Member States on the methodology in scenarios with a more defined setting with the objective of getting to the finalisation of this methodology itself. He added that the risk assessment will then, hopefully, be carried out once it is clear the possibility of having classified meetings which require in-person gatherings. He noted that the methodology is a starting point and that this will be continued to be refined throughout the process and reminded that the objective is to produce non-binding guidance, this is, identifying good solutions and to come to a common understanding of the risks and threats against passenger ship security in the EU. He mentioned that the results of the risk assessment will allow to make sure that all the parties involved are on the same line, understand what needs to be managed and, in case there is anything to be managed, this will allow in the future to go back to the process to revalue the risk in certain periods so as to adapt to any evolution in the perception of the risk.

Cybersecurity

IACS (International Association of Classification Societies) presented an update on how cyber safety is being further addressed by IACS and described the IACS reminded its Recommendation 166 published on 4 May 2020 which consolidates previous 12 Rec. related to cyber resilience (Rec. 153-164) and which applies to computer-based systems which provide control, alarm, monitoring, safety or internal communication functions subject to Classification requirements. IACS highlighted the valuable input from the industry via the Joint Working Group on Cyber Systems. During the second part of 2020, the IACS Cyber Systems Panel continued to work with its industry partners and looked for their feedback to confirm its roadmap.

The objective of IACS Recommendation 166 was to incorporate cyber risk into ISM in order to help ship-owners on how to do risk assessment while considering human factors also for cyber system and what should be done for mitigation of the risks and to provide a common framework to carry out risk assessment based on which risk mitigation measures are implemented. Finally, IACS informed that the Publication of these documents containing new interconnected cyber-focused Unified Requirements and Recommendation is planned during the second half of 2021.

Any other business

The next SAGMAS meeting is scheduled for 9 September 2021, either physically or virtually, to be duly confirmed. •