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Terms of Reference for a Working Group on strategic and operational aspects related to MARPOL Annex VI monitoring activities (MAVI-SOWG)

**Background**

1. The MARPOL Annex VI Experts Workshop 2021 (MAVIEWS 21) was held on 2 – 5 February 2021 to develop a common strategy and operational procedures on MARPOL Annex VI monitoring activities in the Bonn Agreement area. The Workshop concluded on a set of recommendations to be further explored through two working groups (WG) dealing with (1) strategic and operational aspects (MAVI-SOWG) and (2) technical aspects (MAVI-TWG) under the umbrella of OTSOPA.
2. As a follow up of the Workshop, Contracting Parties were invited to submit the national representatives of the WGs and the Co-convenors made a first attempt to subdivide the MAVIEWS 21 recommendations for both WG into a subset of actions that, on the one hand, are quick wins and in-kind actions (mainly on info exchange, regular tasks and national operations) that would require limited additional effort, and, on the other hand, actions that would need more resources and therefore a project with external funding.
3. BONN 2021 agreed on the Terms of Reference (ToR) of a WG on strategic and operational aspects related to MARPOL Annex VI monitoring activities (MAVI-SOWG) as in Annex 7 of BONN 2021 Summary Record. OTSOPA 2022 decided to update the ToR to reflect a tiered approach: the working groups would be activated focusing on the quick -wins first and, in a later stage, the project proposal could be submitted.

**Objective**

1. To address the quick wins or in-kind actions on strategic and operational aspects related to MARPOL Annex VI monitoring activities in the Bonn Agreement area listed under §9, distributing the workload among the Contracting Parties.
2. To liaise with MAVI-TWG to address those recommended actions which are both a strategic/operational, and a technical question or challenge (e.g. use of a threshold; standardised reporting; intercomparison and validation efforts, etc.), and imply some degree of coordination.

5bis To support, when appropriate, the potential project coordinator in delivering the actions which might require external funding.

**Participants**

1. The WG will be co-convened by Hervé Metayer from France and Astrid Driesprong from the Netherlands, with an active participation of all Contracting Parties to the WG meetings. In addition, the co-convenors of the MAVI-TWG and representatives from the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors are invited to join the meetings. Experts can also participate in the WG if requested by Contracting Parties with a justification (BONN 22/12/1 Annex 6).

**Work arrangements**

1. The WG will work via correspondence and hold the following meetings:
   1. online WG meetings;
   2. an annual physical inter WG meeting (e.g. prior or back to back to OTSOPA); and
   3. semestral meetings between the OTSOPA Chair and WG leaders.

**Quick wins and in-kind actions**

1. The WG will address the following Quick wins and in-kind actions:
   1. Organise joint offshore sub-regional surveillance programs building on existing capacities and sharing assets and costs with neighbours. Consider a scaled approach: **national programs and sub-regional coordination**→ Sub-regional \ regional programs→ inter-regional level. National Programs and sub-regional coordination can be considered as in-kind actions.
   2. Develop a surveillance strategy building on existing national expertise, experience and knowledge from countries with a well-established policy.
      1. Use the fully available toolbox for emission control provided by CPs and EMSA including airborne-, ship- and land-based systems.
      2. Promote remote measurements at sea in the BA area, looking for synergies between different assets:
         * measure many ships in a few high traffic density locations including port entrances, using airborne, shipborne and/or fixed sensors
         * measure fewer ships but in many locations (unpredictable approach) using airborne and/or shipborne sensors.
   3. Develop and maintain an inventory of assets/capacities among the Bonn Agreement.
   4. Consider using EMSA sniffer drones in joint campaigns under the Bonn Agreement and sharing experience on the drone deployments among CPs to increase knowledge.
   5. Build on best practices from previous projects such as CompMon and SCIPPER.
   6. Exchange information on the use of Thetis EU database by CPs to improve reporting of compliant and non-compliant measurements and encourage CPs to submit this data.
   7. Encourage further developments in Thetis-EU to make it a more active alerting system, make it more accessible to Competent Authorities, and have automatic email alerts taking into account the measurement uncertainty.
   8. Consider proposing to the PSC community the exchange of information based on NOx measurements, possibly in Thetis-EU, to support MARPOL Annex VI enforcement and discuss how to include NOx measurements, possibly in Thetis-EU, in the future (pending the potential development of EU regulations on NOx).
   9. Explore if Thetis-EU could better facilitate data sharing (including raw data) and be used for statistical analyses and annual reporting within the BA (for SOx and NOx in the future).
   10. Consider possible authorisation issues in Thetis-EU (i.e. one CP reporting with data in another CPs waters).
   11. Exchange information with the North Sea Network of Investigators & Prosecutors (NSN).

**Actions for which external funding might need to be considered (possible project-based actions)**

1. The WG will support the project coordinator in the delivery of the following actions:
   1. Consider organising joint offshore sub-regional surveillance programs building on existing capacities and sharing assets and costs with neighbours. Consider a scaled approach: national programs and sub-regional coordination→ Sub-regional \ regional programs→ inter-regional level. The second and third level of this regional coordination needs external funding.
   2. Identify priority areas (high traffic density, ECA, ECA borders) or high-risk areas using e.g. satellite information or outcome from a risk analysis project.
   3. Coordinate a regional mission once a year with national assets (TdH[[1]](#footnote-1)/CEPCO[[2]](#footnote-2) type) and/or EMSA RPAS.

1. Tour d’Horizon programme for aerial surveillance of offshore oil and gas installations [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operations [↑](#footnote-ref-2)