European Commission

Places of Refuge: The EU initiative

The International Salvage Union Associate Members' Day
London, 16 March 2016

European Commission
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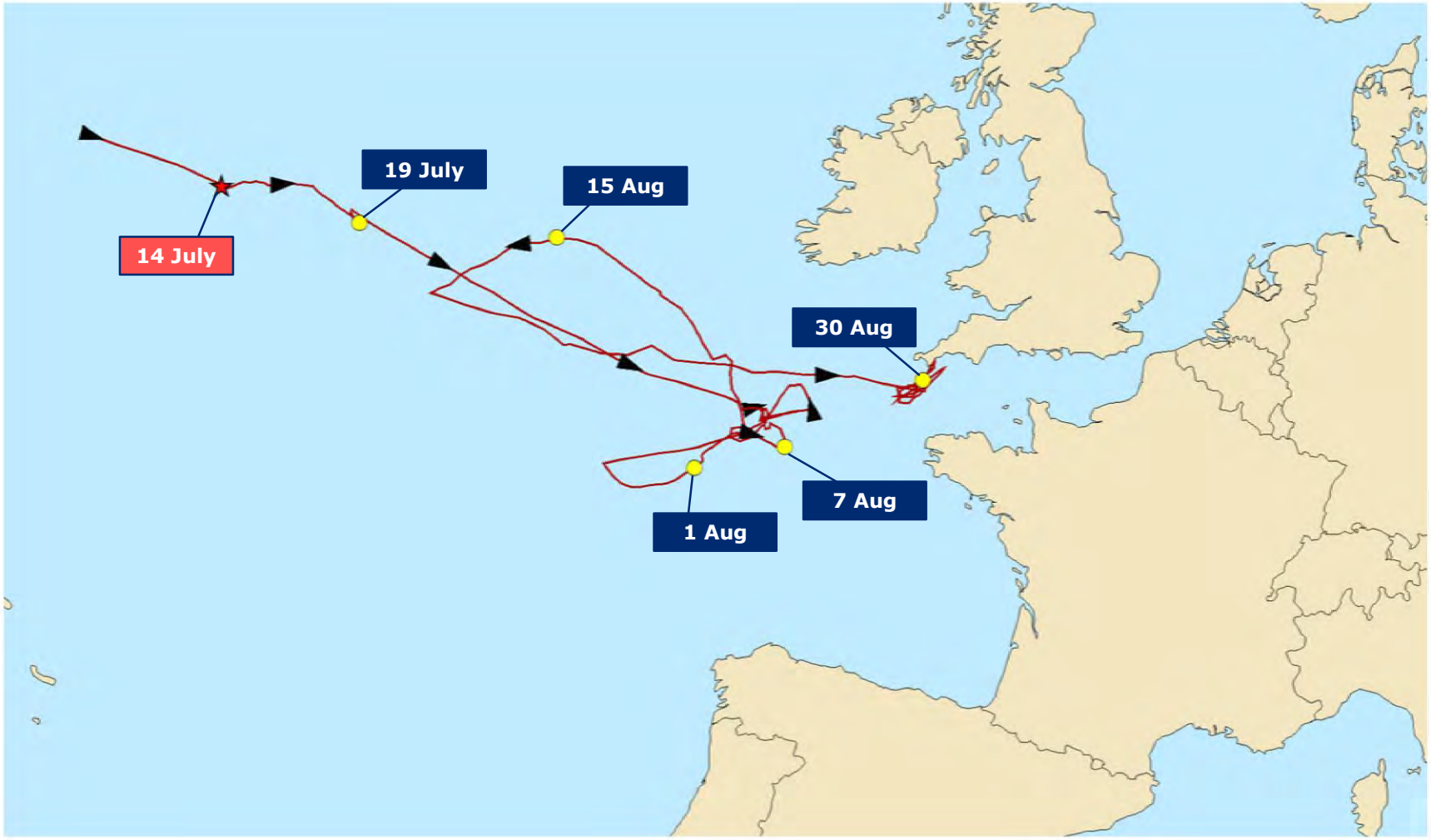
Presentation overview

- EU Initiative on Places of Refuge:
  - **Cooperation Group** on Places of Refuge
  - **EU Operational Guidelines** on Places of Refuge
  - **Next steps / continuing commitment**

EU Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge

- Background:
  - **MSC Flaminia** incident (2012)
  - Emphasis on **cooperation** and **information-sharing** (including States and Industry)
  - Focus on **implementation** of existing framework


19 July
15 Aug
14 July
30 Aug
7 Aug
1 Aug

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- Principles & Methods:
  - **Co-operation** among national competent authorities, in particular for incidents occurring beyond national jurisdiction
  - Effective use of all available **information sources and data platforms**
  - Seeking **industry's involvement** and expert input
  - Establishing **network of contacts**

EU Cooperation Group on Places of Refuge

- Work so far:
  - **2 Table Top Exercises** with the support of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA):
  - Rotterdam 2013: Need for Operational Guidelines on places of refuge to help with implementation of existing legal framework
  - Malta 2015: Tested the draft Operational Guidelines in action and identified final amendments

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygzXqdKVc24&feature=youtu.be

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- Work so far (...continued):
  - **EU Operational Guidelines** adopted by the Expert Group in November 2015 and publicly endorsed with Commissioner Bulc's support and European Parliament's backing on 27 January 2016

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/digital-services/doc/por-operational-guidelines.pdf

  - **Submission to IMO MSC 96** for information on the EU Operational Guidelines

EU Operational Guidelines

- **WHY?**

- Need for **enhanced cooperation and coordination** among competent authorities and industry actors involved in an incident
- Need for a **user-friendly manual for implementation of existing rules**
- Need to **change attitudes** towards ships in need of assistance – within national administrations, competent authorities and industry

EU Operational Guidelines

- **WHEN?**

- Covering **all operational stages** of an incident that may lead to a ship in need of assistance
- Do not cover SAR operations
- Do not apply to incidents in inland waterways.

EU Operational Guidelines

- **HOW?**

Based on:

✓ EU VTMIS Directive (2002/59/EC),

✓ IMO Guidelines (Resolution A.949(23)),

✓ Horizontal Analysis of EMSA's visits to MSs,

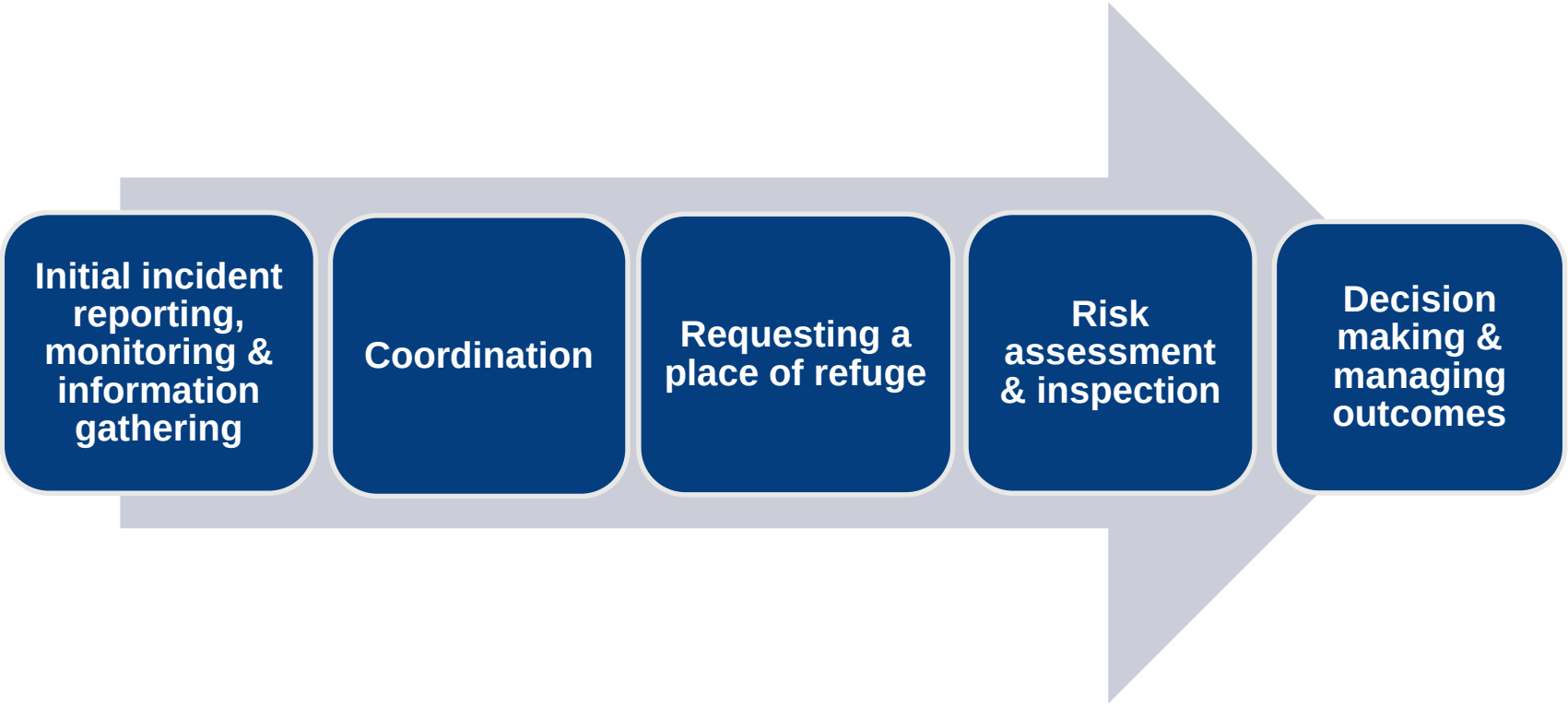
✓ MSs experience with places of refuge,

✓ 2 TTEs (latest one testing the Guidelines),

✓ Other relevant work in similar areas (e.g. HAZMAT)

Making use of existing EU information gathering and sharing systems

EU Operational Guidelines



Next steps - Continuing commitment

At the time of adoption of the EU Operational Guidelines, the following points of further action were also agreed upon:

- *The **continuous improvement** of the EU Operational Guidelines through experience gained from real incidents (e.g. Modern Express);*
- *Setting up **appropriate training** on the Operational Guidelines with the support of EMSA;*
- *Organising new **practical exercises**, using EMSA's experience;*

Next steps - Continuing commitment

- *Promoting **integrated information flows**;*
- *Developing further **risk assessment methodologies**, complementary in particular situations involving more than one jurisdiction;*
- *Clarifying **insurance, liability and compensation** matters;*
- *Engaging at IMO for the **continuous improvement of the international framework** on places of refuge.*

Thank you for your attention!

Source: Marine Nationale (published by Havariekommando, 3.9.2012)