



International Civil Aviation Organization

ICAO

Ninth Meeting of the ICAO Asia/Pacific Search and Rescue Working Group (APSAR/WG/9)

Bangkok, Thailand, 07 – 10 May 2024

Agenda Item 4: Asia/Pacific and inter-regional SAR planning, coordination and cooperation

ICAO EUR SAR WORKSHOP WITH SAREX 2023

(Presented by Chair of APSAR WG)

SUMMARY

This information paper presents the outcome of the ICAO EUR SAR Workshop 2023.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The ICAO EUR SAR Workshop with SAREX 2023 was jointly organized by the ICAO EUR/NAT Office and JRCC Larnaca in Cyprus, in the premises of Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC) Larnaca and Airport Hermes in Larnaca, on the 5th and 6th of October 2023.

1.2. The ICAO EUR SAR Workshop was attended by 95 participants from 35 States and 5 organisations (International and European), as well as 2 airlines.

1.3. The Workshop was opened by the JRCC Commander Andreas Charalambides and Excellency Mr Michalis Giorgallas, Minister of Defence and Excellency Mr Alexis Vafeadis, Minister of Transport, Communications and Works of Cyprus. Mr El Khan Nahmadov, ICAO EUR/NAT Deputy Regional Director, also addressed the Workshop with the opening speech highlighting ICAO's perspectives and priorities related to the vital topics to be discussed during the Workshop.

1.4. The speakers and workshop participants expressed their appreciation to Cyprus and ICAO for the organisation of this important regional event.

1.5. The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness about the current SAR activities, share experience and address regional implementation matters. The workshop discussed the implementation of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) and SAR oversight. A full-scale SAR exercise took place on 6 October to practice the implementation of SAR procedures of the Republic of Cyprus. The participants were invited to observe the operation of SAR services, the activation of aerodrome emergency plans and the delivery of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The objective of the Workshop was to raise awareness about the current SAR activities, share experience and address regional implementation matters. The workshop discussed the implementation of the Global Aeronautical Distress and Safety System (GADSS) and SAR oversight. A full-scale SAR exercise took place on 6 October to practice the implementation of SAR procedures of the Republic of Cyprus. The participants were invited to observe the operation of SAR services, the

activation of aerodrome emergency plans and the delivery of assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.

2.2 The EUR SAR Workshop agenda was:

5 October 2023 (first day):

- i) Welcome and introduction;
- ii) SAR System of Republic of Cyprus (Challenges and Capabilities), by JRCC Larnaca;
- iii) ICAO EUR/NAT Overview on SAR provisions and activities, by ICAO EUR/NAT Deputy Regional Director Mr. Elkhan Nahmadov;
- iv) Introduction to Cospas-Sarsat, by Head of Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat Mr. Steven Lett;
- v) Outcome of GADSS Workshop, by Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Mr. Tai Kit;
- vi) Galileo SAR, by EUSPA Mr. Pol Novell;
- vii) Space Technology of benefit for SAR, Department of Electronic Communications, Mr. Stelios Tziortzis;
- viii) SIT 185 Distress Messages for FGB ELT (DT)s, by Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat, Mr. Arnaud Sindou;
- ix) GADSS/LADR, by EUROCONTROL, Ms. Anastasia Sobchenko;
- x) North Atlantic ELT – DT exercise review, by FAA and the NAT project team leader, Mr. Steve Pinkerton;
- xi) The role of air traffic services in SAR operations, by Head of Air Traffic Services Larnaca Airport, Department of Civil Aviation Cyprus, Mr Nicolas Mytides;
- xii) Role of LAF-Navy in Maritime Safety & Search and Rescue Operations, by Lebanese Navy, Mr Challita Mrad;
- xiii) Lessons Learnt of July 2022, Cargo Fight accident with hazard material, by Hellenic Fire Services, Mr Konstantinos Palliouras;
- xiv) ICAO EUR SAR Task Force, by ICAO EUR SAR/TF Chair, Mr. Nikola Sarancic; and
- xv) Logistics about Workshop for Day 2, by JRCC Larnaca Deputy Commander, Major Andreas Zacharia;

6 October 2023 (second day):

- i) SAREX per – ops Briefing, by JRCC Larnaca Deputy Commander, Major Andreas Zacharia;
- ii) SAREX - live the SAREX in Larnaca International Airport, performed by Cyprus SAR system;
- iii) Family Assistance Emergency Response plan in case of air accident. Family Assistance Exercise (Recorded), by Hermes Airport/TUS Airlines/Cyprus Airways;
- iv) SAREX Lessons Learnt; and
- v) JRCC SAR training centre (tour at SAR simulator) and RCC Ops room tour.

2.3 Information regarding the SAR oversight capabilities for States in the ICAO EUR Region was provided by the ICAO Secretariat, with a focus on the Effective Implementation (EI) of the SAR related Protocol Questions (PQ) of the ICAO Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP). The ICAO Secretariat additionally shared information about GADSS, and ICAO provisions on assistance to aircraft accident victims and their families.

2.4 JRCC Larnaca provided information about the organization of the SAR system in Cyprus, with the presentation of the SAR Units that participate in the SAR, and information about the SAR activities of JRCC Larnaca.

2.5 Information on the program and organization of Cospas-Sarsat was provided at the meeting. The Workshop participants noted that 60,000 persons in distress were assisted since 1982, and 500 from aviation incidents in 2022. Cospas-Sarsat forward-looking activities include an improved system concept of Medium-Altitude Earth Orbiting Satellites for Search and Rescue (MEOSAR), with a note that MEOSAR used to calculate the location of EgyptAir Flight MS 804 in 2016, ELT(DT) with GADSS compliance, and more activities of the Cospas-Sarsat program e.g. Two-way Communication link, SGBs.

2.6 The Workshop participants were informed about the outcome of the GADSS Workshop, which was held in conjunction with APSARWG/7. The key discussion outcomes identified by the GADSS Workshop were Survey and discussions revealed significant low-level knowledge of GADSS and ADT across the region and uncertainty in several areas, ICAO GADSS Manual Doc 10165 will be an important reference source, RCCs need to prepare for the two pathways of receipt of ELT(DT) notifications, need for further workshops likely to assist stakeholders with understanding and preparation, and etc.

2.7 Information about Galileo SAR as an EU's contribution to SAR was shared with the group by EUSPA. The Workshop noted information that in 2022, Galileo participated in 1144 SAR events, and 3.223 people were rescued, whereas in Europe in 390 events, Galileo SAR contributed to the saving of 100 persons. The Galileo services include Open Service (OS), Public Regulated Services (PRS), Navigation Message Authentication (OSNMA), High Accuracy Service (HAS) and I/NAV improvement. The group also noted with interest the planned evolutions regarding Remote Beacon Activation and two-way communications.

2.8 The Workshop participants were presented with appreciation the Cyprus activities in space with several programs where Cyprus participate in space activities, and the use of space technologies and Infrastructures, in Search and Rescue and Disaster Risk Management, which is of a high priority in the political agenda of Cyprus.

2.9 The Cospas-Sarsat Secretariat presented the sample of ELT (DT) SIT 185 messages with a detailed explanation of reading the First Generation Beacon (FGB) ELT (DT) SIT 185 messages that will be provided by Cospas-Sarsat program to the RCCs and SPOCs, as the support to the GADSS system. In particular, ATS and RCCs should adapt their operating procedures and practices to handle ELT(DT) alerts (SIT message), originating from an aircraft that may still be in flight.

2.10 Information about LADR and Global Aeronautical Distress & Safety System (GADSS) was provided by EUROCONTROL. It was recalled that GADSS was developed by ICAO in response to limitations in the current air navigation system highlighted by Air France flight AF447 and Malaysian Airlines flight MH370. The 3 functional blocks of GADSS are aircraft tracking, Autonomous Distress Tracking (ADT), and post-flight localization and recovery. The objective is to minimize the size of the potential area in which an accident has occurred, reducing the search time and increasing the chances of successfully locating and rescuing survivors.

2.11 EUROCONTROL, currently developing the LADR, informed the meeting that they aimed to establish a simple and efficient distribution of information on an aircraft in distress. EUROCONTROL as a developer and host and an initial commitment was established based on the following principles:

- a) LADR based on the ICAO Doc 10150 specifications
- b) 24/7 technical support provided to LADR-accredited users
- c) Global coverage and a global interoperable system approach

2.12 The workshop was informed that the LADR timeline showed the LADR test mode was available from 15 September 2023, and LADR as Repository would be available on 15 December 2023. LADR fully operational will be in 2024. All aircraft (identified by ICAO Annex 6) will be expected to provide information to LADR by January 2025.

2.13 The Workshop participants were informed about the North Atlantic ADT exercise with the LADR project team (NAT DISTRES PT). November 2023 is the targeting timeframe for execution. ADT will broadcast to last 15-20 minutes to allow sufficient time to receive/evaluate the process. During the ADT exercise, NAT DISTRES PT will evaluate the notification process, existing procedures and initial post-exercise debrief followed by more in-depth briefs and analyses. Results will be exchanged with other Regions.

2.14 Cyprus presented to the Workshop participants their Air Traffic Services in SAR Operations, regarding Alerting service, ATC emergency handling procedures and declarations of emergency phases, and emergency response preparedness by ATS Units.

2.15 The Workshop participants were informed about the Role of the Lebanese Armed Forces – Navy in Maritime Safety and Security Crisis and Disaster Management and Rescue Operations. The Workshop participants noted the challenges provided by Lebanon in the SAR area.

2.16 The Hellenic Fire Service provided lessons learned on the SAR mission of a Cargo Flight Accident with Hazard Material, from July 2022.

2.17 The Chair of TF provided the Report of the work of the ICAO EUR SAR Task Force, emphasising the Decisions and Conclusions made by EASPG in accordance with the WPs provided by EUR SAR TF.

2.18 The JRCC Larnaca provided Pre-Ops information about the organization of the SAREX “TEFKROS 2023” as part of the ICAO EUR SAR Workshop 2023, which was organized on 6 October 2023, in the zone of Larnaca Airport.

2.19 The Workshop participants had an opportunity to observe a very well prepared demonstration of the national SAR system through the SAREX “TEFKROS 2023” running in the field of the airport zone. This provided a possibility to observe the coordination and cooperation of many engaged SAR Units in the field.

2.20 After the SAREX had been completed, the Workshop participants had the opportunity to discuss lessons learned from the observed SAREX “TEFKROS 2023”.

2.21 Additional exercise as video about assistance to the family of the passengers of the aircraft accident at the airport Larnaca was presented to the Workshop participants. This exercise showed the necessity of collaboration of many different organisations in providing support to those families. Presentations about family support were provided by two airlines and the airport services of Larnaca.

2.22 The Workshop participants had a chance to observe the RCC Ops room and a new SAR training center equipped with a SAR simulator.

Closing remarks

2.23 The Workshop was closed by JRCC Commander Andreas Charalambides, Mr Elkhan Nahmadov, ICAO EUR/NAT Deputy Regional Director, ICAO EUR SAR TF Chair Mr Nikola Sarancic, and Deputy Commander, Major Andreas Zacharia.

2.24 The ICAO Secretariat invited the participants to verify their possibility and availability to host the next ICAO EUR SAR Workshop event, where it was emphasized that the ICAO EUR/NAT Office and TF would provide the host State with all necessary support in preparation of the event.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information provided.

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