



Regional cooperation in SAR

Regional
Aeronautical
Search
And
Rescue
Advisory
Committee



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Baseline: ICAO Annex 12 „Search and Rescue“ to the Convention on International Civil Aviation



OBLIGATIONS OF ICAO MEMBER STATES IN SAR

2.1.1

Contracting States shall, individually or in cooperation with other States, arrange for establishment and prompt provision of search and rescue services within their territories to ensure that assistance is rendered to persons in distress. Such service shall be provided on 24-hours basis.

3.1 Cooperation between States

Contracting States shall coordinate their SAR organization with those of neighbouring States.

3.1.2

Contracting States should, whenever necessary, coordinate their search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States especially when these operations are proximate to adjacent search and rescue regions.

3.1.2.1

Contracting States should, in so far as practicable, develop common search and rescue plans and procedures to facilitate coordination of search and rescue operations with those of neighbouring States.



Annex 12 To the Convention on International Civil Aviation

Search and Rescue

Ninth Edition, July 2024



This edition supersedes, on 29 November 2024, all previous editions of Annex 12. For information regarding the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, see Part I, Annex 12.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

Baseline: ICAO Annex 9 „Facilitation“ and Annex 11 „ATS“ to the Convention on International Civil Aviation



ICAO Annex 9, Chapter 8, B:

Facilitation of search, rescue, accident investigation and salvage

8.3 Contracting States shall make arrangements to ensure entry without delay into their territories on a temporary basis of qualified personnel required for search, rescue, accident investigation, repair or salvage in connection with a lost or damaged aircraft.

8.3.1 In arranging for the entry without delay of the personnel, States shall not require any other travel document than a passport.

ICAO Annex 11

Several provision regarding search and rescue in relation to provision of ATS



International Standards
and Recommended Practices



This edition incorporates all amendments adopted by the Council prior to 17 June 2017 and supersedes, on 23 February 2018, all previous editions of Annex 9.
For information regarding the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, see Foreword.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION



International Standards
and Recommended Practices



This edition supersedes, on 8 November 2018, all previous editions of Annex 11.
For information regarding the applicability of the Standards and Recommended Practices, see Foreword.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION

REGIONAL OPERATIONAL SAR CHALLENGE



- **Agreement on Search and Rescue Region (SRR)**
- **International cross-border SAR agreements**
- **Operational agreements (National SPOC, communications, contacts details, procedure for requesting support, procedure for entering, SAR assets catalogue)**
- **Common operational procedures between States**
- **Mutual SAR expert visits**
- **Joint training**
- **Bilateral / multinational SAR exercises**
- **Oversight of SAR**

Establishment of RASARAC



Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Regional Aeronautical Search and Rescue Advisory Committee (RASARAC)

signed on **03 Nov 2016**

Bosnia & Herzegovina

Croatia

Hungary

North Macedonia

Serbia

Slovakia

Slovenia

Joined from 2017-2025

Albania

Bulgaria

Czech Republic

Montenegro

Romania

Regional Aeronautical SAR Advisory Committee

Committee consists of civil and military representatives of participating States

- ❖ Czech Republic
- ❖ Hungary
- ❖ Romania

Observer States: 3

- ❖ Albania
- ❖ Bosnia-Herzegovina
- ❖ Bulgaria
- ❖ Croatia
- ❖ Montenegro
- ❖ North Macedonia
- ❖ Serbia
- ❖ Slovakia
- ❖ Slovenia

Member States: 9

Several States have meanwhile expressed their interest to take part in the Initiative in the future

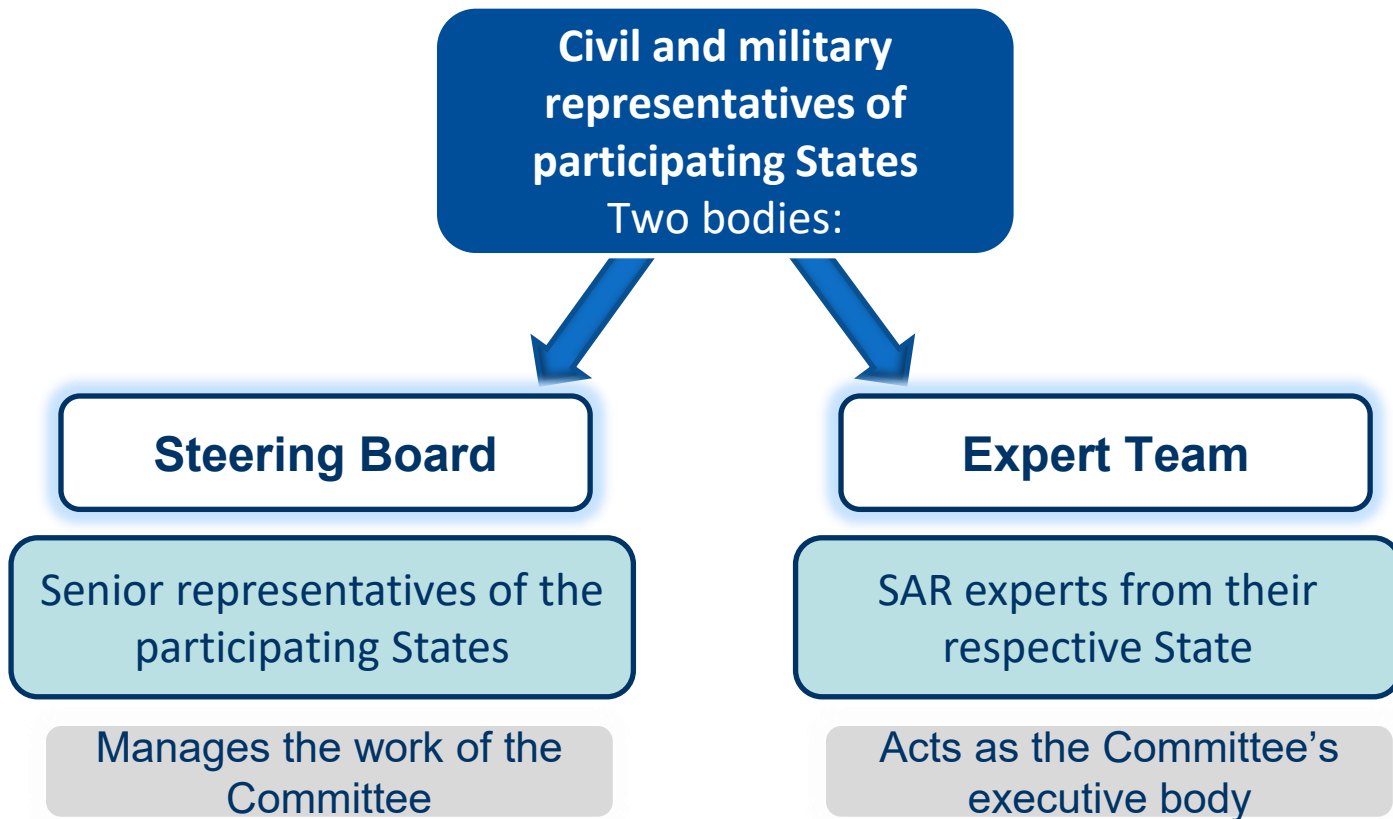
e.g. Greece, Austria, Italy

Some States have expressed their interest to cooperate with RASARAC

e.g. Poland, Latvia, Estonia

RASARAC is together with the ICAO EUR/NAT Office and EUROCONTROL de facto one of the largest SAR permanent forums in Europe

RASARAC at a glance



Objectives of the Regional Aeronautical SAR Advisory Committee



Objectives of the Regional Aeronautical SAR Committee:

To provide support to the Parties of the MoU in building and maintaining aeronautical SAR capacities

To enhance cross border cooperation among Parties in this area

Further objectives



Provide an overview of the initiatives underway in the Central and Southeast European region for significant and sustainable improvement in the provision of Search & Rescue (SAR) services

Show that the most efficient way to meet the community's expectations of SAR services is achieved through cooperation among the region's States as well as inter-regional collaboration

Focus on the institutional and operational aspects of cross-border cooperation in SAR, and the identification of modalities for efficient collaboration to enhance the regional SAR system, including bespoke SAR training

Recommend the rationalization of resources through regional cooperation and coordination in accordance with the technical and operational capacity of each State

Outline the improvements needed in the area of SAR and the impact of the Global Aeronautical Distress & Safety System (GADSS) and LADR development

Working Groups: tasks and deliverables



WGs established by RASARAC Expert Team

WG 1 – SAR cross-border cooperation

Template for cross-border SAR agreements, per Annex 12 and IAMSAR

WG 2 – SAR operational requirements and procedures

Templates for SAR operational LoAs, SOPs and MEL for use by SAR Units

WG 3 – SAR training

Regional training needs and priorities; organisation of relevant training

WG 4 – SAR oversight

Analysis of systemic SAR oversight issues and potential regional solutions

WG 5 – Collaboration with AIIB and judicial services

WG1 - WG on SAR cross-border cooperation

Composition

Chair: Slovenia

Members: Members and Observers, ICAO and EUROCONTROL representatives

Tasks

To prepare a cross-border SAR agreement template, in accordance with ICAO Annex 12 and IAMSAR provisions

To prepare a template for SAR operational LoAs, concurrent with the requirements for State-level SAR agreements

Deliverables

Draft Multilateral Agreement through several interaction agreed and supported by all Members and Observers (National processes have already started – ratified by N. Macedonia and Montenegro for now)

WG2 - WG on SAR operational requirements and procedures



Composition

Chair: Montenegro

Members: Members and Observers, ICAO and EUROCONTROL representatives

Aim

Better understanding how we, individually, manage SAR activities in civil aviation

Tasks

To prepare a comprehensive questionnaire to collect relevant information from the States regarding SAR operational capabilities relative to cross-border cooperation (capabilities) in the Region

To verify and use, as appropriate, the ICAO USOAP SAAQ as well as the audit PQs in preparation of the above said task

To prepare a template for SAR operational LoAs, concurrent with the requirements for State-level SAR agreements

To prepare draft of SAR Operational plan (standard operating procedure) and production of Minimum list of equipment used by SAR units, which will be formulated as annexes to the Operational Agreement



WG3 - WG on SAR training (1/2)

Composition

Chair: Serbia

Members: Members and Observers, ICAO and EUROCONTROL representatives

Tasks

To collect SAR training requirements from the States in terms of compliance with the provisions of Annex 12 and IAMSAR as well as accepted “good practices”

To analyse, and report on SAR regional training needs and potential solutions (*if existing*) with a focus on initial and specialist SAR operational, inspector and management tasks, plus theoretical, on-the-job and continuation training requirements

To verify and use, as appropriate, the relevant ICAO USOAP audit PQs in preparation of the aforementioned task

Deliverables

Reports, documents, trainings

Identified SAR training needs / priorities:

1. A course which provides SAR Coordinators / SAR Managers theoretical and practical knowledge on the planning and management of SAR organisations

2. A course which provides SAR Mission Coordinators theoretical and practical knowledge on aeronautical SAR operations and prepares them to conduct SAR operations in respective Rescue Coordination Centres

WG3 - WG on SAR training (2/2)



Trainings:

April 2018

SAR Training Course for SAR Administrators and SAR Mission Coordinators was organised by Serbia with the Cyprus Joint Rescue Coordination Centre – JRCC Larnaca, in accordance with the recommendations and cooperation of ICAO EUR/NAT and EUROCONTROL

Two initial SAR training sessions have been organized by JRCC Larnaca for RASARAC States in 2019 and trainings continued:

2019, 2021, 2023, 2024

2019, 2021, 2023, 2024

2024

1. Initial SMC training

2. Initial SAR Manager training

3. ACO training

Exercises:

Participation of RASARAC Members and Observers to the multinational exercise ARGONAUT-2018 in May 2018 in Larnaca as well as in May 2019

Participation of RASARAC Members and Observers at ICAO SAR Workshop and two-days SAREX organized jointly by ICAO and CAD Serbia in September 2019

Participation at Regional Workshop organized jointly by CAA Montenegro and TAIEX in August/September 2022 and on SAREX in Larnaca in 2023 during ICAO EUR SAR Workshop

Participation of RASARAC Members and Observers at exercises (ASAR 2017-2, BROKEN WING2019, ADRIATIC 2022, ORAHOVICA 2023, RUSE 2024, MALI LOSINJ 2025) organised by Members or Observers (Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro etc.)

WG4 - WG on SAR oversight (1/2)

Composition

Chair: EUROCONTROL

Members: Members and Observers, ICAO and EUROCONTROL representatives

Tasks

To analyse and report SAR oversight issues and potential regional solutions, with a focus on systemic deficiencies, identified in (but not limited to) ICAO USOAP audits

To link the analysis to the conclusions and recommendations of WG 1, WG 2 and WG 3

To develop standard SAR Compliance Checklists for use at regional level

To use the ICAO USOAP SAAQ and the USOAP audit PQs as appropriate

Deliverables

Reports, documents

WG4 - WG on SAR oversight (2/2)



Next steps:

- WG 4 will refer to the EUR SAR-TF and RESG to identify challenges and share best practices in SAR safety oversight
- Strengthen the link between regulatory and operational oversight, including monitoring of SAR ops, exercises (SAREX), and cooperation with investigation bodies
- Enhance civil-military coordination, especially in relation to SSP development and its oversight by ICAO and EASA
- Improve information sharing within the Committee, WGs, States, and the Region (e.g. peer review mechanism)
- Leverage expertise from other States on operational matters, training, cross-border agreements, and SAR oversight aligned with ICAO standards
- Consider oversight of new aviation developments, such as UAS/RPAS in SAR, U-space, ATM vs. UTM, etc.

How it works



Chairing annually

Year	State	Status
2016/2017	Serbia	Completed
2018	Slovakia	Completed
2019	Slovenia	Completed
2020	Covid-19	
2021	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Completed
2022	Montenegro	Completed
2023	North Macedonia	Completed
2024	Bulgaria	Completed
2025	Croatia	Current
2026	Albania	Planned
2027	Serbia	Planned
2028	Slovakia	Planned
2029	Slovenia	Planned
2030	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Planned
2031	Montenegro	Planned
...		

Co-chairing with



At least 1 SB meeting/year
At least 2 ET meetings/year

Working groups – email or VTC through out the year

Events

Meetings



Montenegro 2022.



N. Macedonia 2023.



Bulgaria, 2024.



Croatia, 2025.

Trainings



Serbia, 2018.



Cyprus, 2019.



Cyprus, 2021.



Events

SAREX



Montenegro, 2022.



Cyprus, 2022.



Bulgaria, 2024.



Croatia, 2025.



RASARAC agreements



RASARAC signed three cooperation agreements:



1. EUROCONTROL

MoU on mutually identified priority areas of cooperation on SAR matters

signed on 09.11.2017



2. JRCC Larnaca

MoU on the establishment of official coordination and cooperation on SAR matters

signed on 16.11.2018



3. JAA TO

MoU on the establishment of specialized training for RASARAC on SAR assessment and oversight

signed on 08.11.2023

SAR Agreement dd. 22 Feb 2023



- **“On Aeronautical SAR Cooperation and Coordination”**
- **Signed by Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia & Slovenia (ratified by Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia)**
 - Two signatures pending completion of national procedures
- **Framework for cooperation among the Parties in accordance with legislation in force**
- **Definition of –**
 - **SAR Regions**
 - **Authorities – Entities**
 - **Communication and Cooperation**
 - **Facilitation of Transit**
 - **Operational Agreements**
 - **Costs**
 - **Rights and Obligations**
- **Open for accession by ICAO Contracting States**
- **Sent to ICAO for registration**



Cooperation with DG DEFIS, DG NEAR and EU Institutions



Presentations of GALILEO with emphasis on SAR applications

Support from EC DG NEAR and TAIEX instrument in organisation of Regional SAR Workshop in Podgorica in 2022

Promotion campaign with RASARAC states:

- presentation of GALILEO in Safety Conference in Slovenia
- presentation of GALILEO in ICAO SAR Workshop in Belgrade in 2019
- presentation of GALILEO in Regional SAR Workshop in Podgorica in 2022
- Brochures / folders in several national languages

Future plans:

Strengthen the cooperation and consider possible further support

Involvement in the exercises with practical presentation

RASARAC Results achieved



Draft aeronautical SAR Agreement agreed and national procedures have started – ratified by Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

Trainings provided for RASARAC members and observers since 2018

Cooperation on the SAR exercises (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia) since 2017

Established cooperation with ICAO EUR/NAT office and EURSAR TF

Established cooperation with Eurocontrol

Established cooperation with DG DEFIS (Galileo), DG NEAR (workshop) and other EC bodies/institutions

Established cooperation with JRCC Larnaca and JAA TO

Key activities for 2024-2026



- **Provision of a permanent platform to implement MoU objectives, Work Plans and recommendations of the RASARAC WGs**
- **Cross-border SAR Agreements, LoAs and operational procedures (templates: ICAO EUR-NAT)**
- **Enhance SAR communications, reactivity and preparedness**
- **Support implementation of GADSS and LADR development**
- **SAR oversight, assessments and peer reviews**
- **SAREX, international forums and events**
- **Identification and organisation of regional training requirements**
- **Workshop on preparing mutual SAREX**
- **Sharing “good practices” and enhancing SAR promotion**
- **Collaboration with States and international organisations**



***Thank you for your
attention***



Questions