

Venice Regional Seapower Symposium 2010



Final Recommendations

PREAMBLE

Delegations from Navies, Naval services and International Organizations convened in Venice, from the 19th to the 22nd of October, 2010, for the Eighth edition of the Regional Seapower Symposium (RSS) for the Navies of the Mediterranean and Black Sea countries, focused on the theme *Dialogue and Cooperation as Maritime Security enablers*.

The signing ceremony of the Trans-Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN), on the 21st of October, represented a notable achievement by a group of like minded Navies and clearly demonstrates the importance of Dialogue & Cooperation for the improvement of Maritime Security, Navies strong commitment to it and the concrete contribution of Naval Symposia to the development of relevant projects in the maritime environment.

During the Venice RSS, Navies and Naval services representatives from 43 countries¹ defined a common position to support their central role in the contribution to maritime security and its enforcement, as stated in this document.

AGREED FINDINGS

The participating delegations concurred that:

- Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA), in the current international scenario, has become increasingly crucial to

¹ Albania, Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, UAE, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Jordan, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, UK and USA.

the maritime security environment, to counteract illicit activities and to deny to criminal and terrorist international organizations any possibility to exploit the seas and its connected littoral areas and infrastructures. In this sense, MSA must take advantage of the most complete knowledge of the maritime environment that includes the comprehensive understanding of specific local behaviors, therefore by emphasizing the regional specificities and peculiarities;

- Dialogue & Cooperation (D&C) in its international and interagency domains represent the most effective approach to tackle the phenomena threatening international security; D&C mechanisms, such as confidence building and partnership development, elaborated and approved by the co-operating Nations, facilitate access to all the essential aspects for effective capacity building;
- Navies are the best suited to act as integrators between the various actors in charge of accomplishing maritime surveillance and security related tasks, thanks to both their extensive experience and their availability of effective assets supporting modern capabilities, such as ships, submarines, aircraft, helicopters, landing and amphibious components, special forces, advanced telecommunications and shore based radars;
- Maritime Forces (Navies and Coast Guards), providing a unique attitude towards synergizing military and civil capacities, should be considered pivotal not only for effective implementation of maritime surveillance and security initiatives but also for their efficient contribution to Maritime Capacity Building;
- Navies have been doing remarkable efforts in conducting Maritime Security Operations, anyway it has been acknowledged that a more effective legal and jurisdictional framework is desirable to improve effectiveness in deterring illegal activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With due respect to the above issues, the following main headings were envisaged, as the most appropriate recommendations to produce effective results by enhancing

international and interagency collaboration in the field of Maritime Surveillance & Security:

- a. promoting regional initiatives and partnership to contribute to global endeavour;
- b. encouraging information sharing, to achieve the most accurate Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) by also adopting cross-sectorial methodologies under an interagency approach and, possibly, harmonizing legal frameworks related to the information sharing in respect of national policy;
- c. Promoting international participation to Maritime Security Operations (MSO), to safeguard freedom of navigation, protecting shipping, energy lines and maritime critical infrastructure worldwide in full conformity with international and customary law. In this sense the experiences gathered so far in conducting multinational operations, such as anti-piracy, should be properly capitalized;
- d. harmonizing national, regional and international MSA and MSO efforts to obtain a cost effective synergy;
- e. developing the Navies role as main actor in Maritime Capacity Building (MCB), to support coastal states “in need” to overcome their lack of capabilities, expertise, maritime culture and specific training for the implementation of maritime security and the enforcement of legality at sea in their respective areas. This adaptive process has to be properly addressed, according to the terms and wishes of the receiving states concerned, and promoted as the specific contribution to the wider comprehensive approach.