

PAME I-2019 Agenda Item 6.2(b)

AMSA Recommendation I(B)

Implementation of the Polar Code

- **Search and rescue exercise (SARex3, Svalbard May 2018- evacuation to shore, survival and rescue**

Background

AMSA Recommendation I(B) provides:

“That the Arctic states, in recognition of the unique environmental and navigational conditions in the Arctic, decide to cooperatively support efforts at the International Maritime Organization to strengthen, harmonize and regularly update international standards for vessels operating in the Arctic. These efforts include: Support the updating and the mandatory application of relevant parts of the Guidelines for Ships Operating in Arctic Ice-covered Waters (Arctic Guidelines); and drawing from IMO instruments, in particular the Arctic Guidelines, augment global IMO ship safety and pollution prevention conventions with specific mandatory requirements or other provisions for ship construction, design, equipment, crewing, training and operating, aimed at safety and protection of the Arctic environment.”

SARex 3

Due to the continuous diminishing of ice in polar areas, larger sea areas become more accessible for the cruise industry. Polar cruises have become more available and increasingly popular. The ultimate challenge for search and rescue operations in the Arctic would be accidents with large cruise vessels.

PAME may recall that Norway previously has informed PAME of exercises carried out by the Norwegian Coast Guard and the University of Stavanger, i.e. the SARex 1 and SARex 2. In May 2018 a new exercise took place, the SARex 3. The main focus in this exercise was evacuation to shore, survival and rescue.

It should be noted that the authors of the main part of this report are responsible for the analysis and the statements made in the report. Hence the report does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Norway.

The report will be presented to the IMO SSE (Sub- committee on ship systems and equipment) meeting in March 2019. A copy of the report can be found here:

<https://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/handle/11250/2578301>

Recommendation(s)

Norway recommend that:

- PAME encourage member governments to work towards a harmonised implementation of the Polar Code.
- PAME encourage member governments to support efforts at SSE to improve performance and/or test standards in support of the implementation of the polar code.

- PAME encourage further cooperation with EPPR on issues on search and rescue in the arctic