

PAME I-2020: Agenda 6.2(f)

Summary on Paris MoU Polar Code Inspection Campaign developments

Summary by Finland, Kingdom of Denmark, Russian Federation

PAME invites the Kingdom of Denmark, the Russian Federation and Finland to provide information to PAME I-2020 on the Paris MoU Polar Code Inspection Campaign developments as a basis for further discussion on how PAME could support the potential campaign. PAME takes note of the proposal of the Russian Federation to support a similar campaign under the Tokyo MoU by interested Arctic States.

At its 52nd meeting in May 2019 the Committee of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on port State control (PSCC52) confirmed to organize an inspection campaign on the Polar Code in 2022.

A task force was established and tasked to develop proposals for a possible inspection campaign on the Polar Code. The task force is to propose the schedule, length and timeframe for the campaign, and consider possible need for training for PSCOs.

Members of the task force with one exemption are representing member countries of the Arctic Council.

Furthermore, the representative of the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on port State control (Tokyo MoU) also participates in the task force, yet the Tokyo MoU hasn't yet decided for a similar campaign.

During the fall the task force discussed a draft questionnaire and guidelines to the questionnaire. Furthermore, the task force discussed the schedule, length and timeframe for the campaign.

Early December 2019 the Technical Evaluation Group (TEG) of the Paris MoU met and considered the proposal by the task force.

As amended in accordance with comments made by the TEG members the draft will be tabled for PSCC53, which will meet in May 2020.

For the reason there is still a lot to do in developing the plan for the campaign, it is not expected that PSCC53 will finally approve the proposal of the task force. As the campaign is

planned for the year 2022, the final approval will at the earliest be in 2021. The Inspection Campaign must be agreed by the Paris MoU Committee (PSCC) before it is launched. PSCC meets once at year in May. The Campaign material is not ready for approval in 2020. Thus, it could be approved by the Committee in May 2021. However, there might still be some issues to discuss after May 2021 and the final approval would therefore first be in 2022.

Training of port State control inspectors could then be in June 2022 depending of course of the time schedule for the campaign.

The Russian Federation, as also member of the Tokyo MoU suggested at the latest Tokyo MoU Committee meeting in Majuro (Marshall Islands) a joint inspection campaign on the Polar Code. However, only few members expressed their interest to participate.

In our opinion both PAME and Paris MoU could benefit from a closer cooperation. As an example, member states through focal points could discuss and explore possibilities of data sharing between PAME and Paris MoU to get relevant information.

- Member States to PAME are encouraged to discuss the campaign internally in their countries, as it is of great importance that agreements reached in PAME are communicated to the relevant colleagues attending the Paris MoU meetings. Therefore, it must be emphasized that close cooperation among different authorities in charge for the issues in question in each Member State is needed to avoid any misunderstanding during the process.
- One outstanding issue is to identify ships with Polar Code certificates and an efficient exchange of data on this field could be of great help.
- A decision by the Tokyo MoU to join the Paris MoU would indeed be a strong signal and highlight the importance of the campaign. While only few members of the Tokyo MoU yet have expressed their support on this issue, the situation might change as the work in the Paris MoU progresses. Therefore, PAME members also member of the Tokyo MoU should continue their efforts promoting the campaign on the Polar Code at Tokyo MoU meetings.
- Also, any support from the US Coast Guard on this issue would be of great value. As a close partner to the Paris MoU the US Coast Guard is most welcome to join the task force.