

## *Dynamics of VTMIS Directive*

The VTMIS Directive is not 'static'. It is so structured, as explained in chapter 1.3, that there are governance groups put in place for the continuous improvement in the technical implementation of the Directive, learning from experience with the operation of the SSN system.

Article 23 requires cooperation between Member States and the Commission with the objective of:

*"(c) extending the cover of the [...] system, and/or updating it, with a view to enhanced identification and monitoring of ships, taking into account developments in information and communication technologies. [...]"*

This is coupled with the tasks for the SafeSeaNet HLSG<sup>1</sup> to look at "current and future developments of SafeSeaNet, including its contribution to maritime surveillance from a holistic perspective".

Hence the VTMIS Directive is quite dynamic and serves as a good example of how the implementation and operation is done with the full involvement of the MS at all levels, taking a step wise approach. This means that upon a request from the HLSG, EMSA is asked to investigate internally the feasibility for a technical solution and draw up a proposal on how to go about it. This is then discussed in the HLSG and MS are invited to participate in the work on a pilot project basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision (2009/584/EC) of 31 July 2009