



Information on the EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge

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DG MOVE

Maritime Safety – Unit D2

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Places of Refuge

- Background:
 - **MSC Flaminia** incident (2012)
 - EU group of experts established -
Emphasis on **cooperation** and
information-sharing (including States
and Industry)
 - Focus on **implementation** of existing
framework

EU Cooperation Group

- Work so far:
 - **EU Operational Guidelines** adopted by the Expert Group in November 2015 and publicly endorsed with Commissioner Bulc's support and European Parliament's backing on 27 January 2016

 - **Submission to IMO MSC 96** for information

EU Operational Guidelines - WHY?

*Need for **enhanced cooperation and coordination** among competent authorities and industry actors involved in an incident*

*Need for a **user-friendly manual for implementation of existing rules** – drafted with a real incident scenario in mind*

*Need to **change attitudes** towards ships in need of assistance– within Governments, competent authorities and industry*

EU Operational Guidelines - WHEN?

*Covering **all operational stages** of an incident that may lead to a ship in need of assistance seeking a place of refuge*

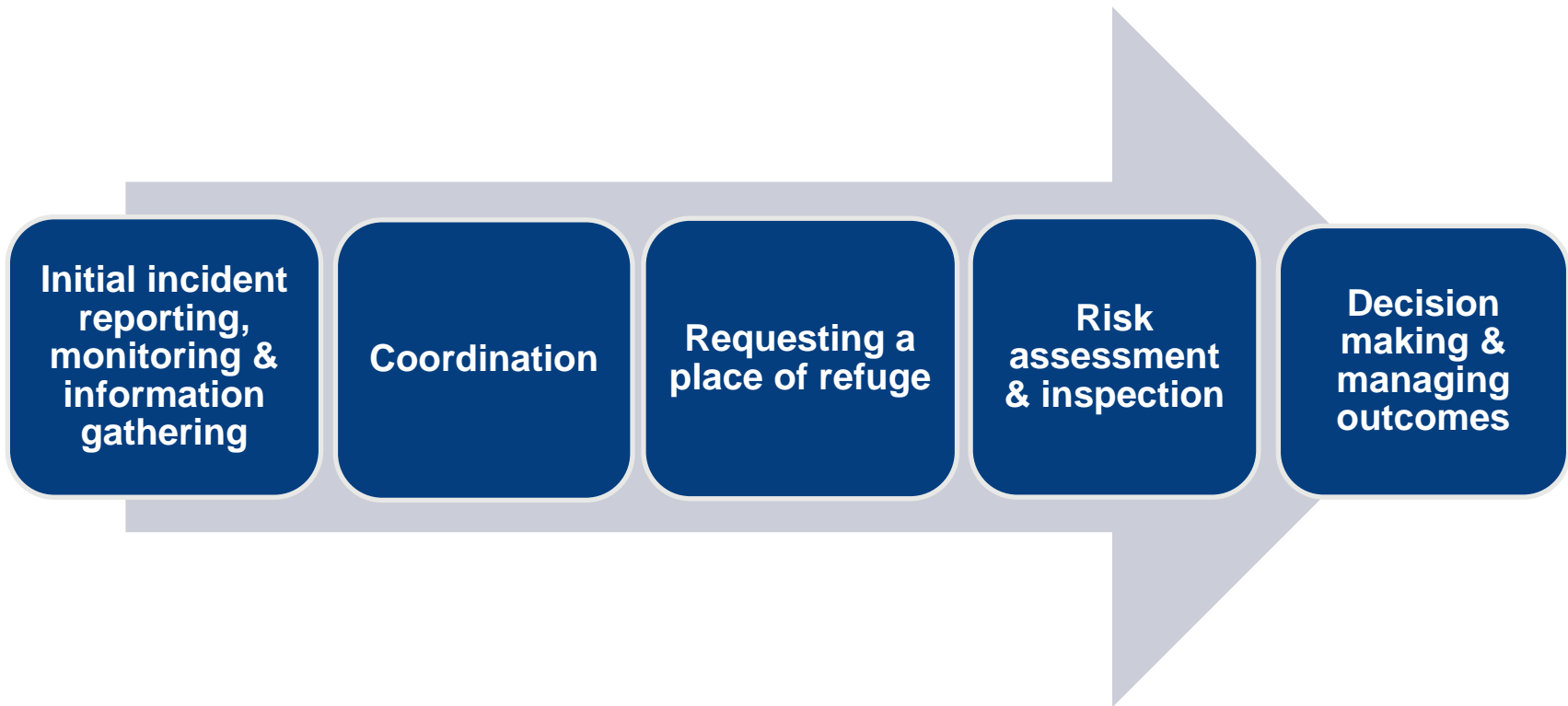
Complementing national plans

Clarifying who should take the lead and who should support

EU Operational Guidelines – How?

Even if one State may not, following an appropriate risk assessment, be in a position to offer a Place of Refuge, the handling of the assessment process should continue in cooperation with the other State(s), who may be in a better position to offer accommodation.

EU Operational Guidelines





EU Operational Guidelines

VTMIS

Places of Refuge

EU Operational Guidelines

Version 3 - Final 13 November 2015

<http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/maritime/digital-services/doc/por-operational-guidelines.pdf>

Summing up

The operational guidelines have been drafted aiming at a robust operational process leading to well-advised and, where possible, quicker decision-making. At the same time they should contribute to promoting positive attitudes – within Governments, authorities and industry.

As a matter of principle, each State involved in the operation should examine the ability to provide a place of refuge. In principle, and unless deemed unsafe, there should be "no rejection without inspection".