

A photograph showing the upper part of a ship's superstructure, including the bridge and various antennas and radar equipment. The ship is white with a blue stripe. The background is a clear blue sky with some light clouds.

# *Blue Belt Pilot Project* Implementation

**Short Sea Conference  
Bilbao, 13 April 2011**

**James Wood  
Maritime Surveillance  
EMSA**

## Initiative of the Belgian EU Presidency

Agreed at the Informal Meeting of Transport Ministers, Antwerp 15-16 September 2010.

### Confirmed by Council on 2 December 2010:

- Recognises the importance of the *"Blue Belt" concept*;
- Supports the idea of the Commission *to initiate the "Blue Belt" pilot project based on the existing SafeSeaNet technology*;
- Supports the intention of the Commission *to develop and implement the "Blue Belt" pilot project, in close cooperation with EMSA*;
- Recommends that the *public and private stakeholders participate in the pilot project*.

### General objective:

To stimulate Short Sea Shipping and to contribute to facilitating vessels operating on intra-EU trading routes.

### Specific objective:

To provide customs authorities with **vessel voyage** information to remove uncertainty regarding the ship's actual ports of call and **vessel behaviour**.

### Project deliverable:

To deliver a **notification report** by E-mail to port **customs authorities** of the EU Member States for the **participating vessels**.



## Public sector

### EU Customs Authorities

Is represented for all matters related to the implementation of the pilot project via the Electronic Customs Group (ECG) chaired by DG TAXUD.

**Blue Belt Correspondence Group (CG)** was set up to support the EU customs authorities. The CG is composed by representatives from BE, CY, DK, FI, FR, IT, NL, PT, UK, the European Commission, DG TAXUD, DG MOVE and EMSA.

This group will provide input to and guidance on the Blue Belt Pilot project, during the **definition**, **operational** and **evaluation** periods.

### Others

The High Level Steering Group of SafeSeaNet and the Administrative Board of EMSA will be kept informed of progress.

## Shipping industry

### **ECSA (European Community of Ship owners Association) & WSC (World Shipping Council)**

These trade organisations facilitate communications between EMSA and the ship owners and have identified the vessels that will participate in the pilot project, the 'Blue Ships'.

**The Ship owners Advisory Group (AG)** is a small panel of representatives (6 members) from shipping companies who will provide feedback on the implementation of the project. This group will provide input to and guidance on the Blue Belt Pilot project, during the definition, operational and evaluation phase.

### **ESPO (European Sea Ports Organisation)**

Will help communicate the project and will assist in monitoring the project, thus providing a "reality check" that will help evaluate the project's actual impact on shipping and ports.

## Implementation

### Customs

The pilot involves **all** maritime custom authorities of **all** MS responsible for those ports where the 'Blue ships' will call.

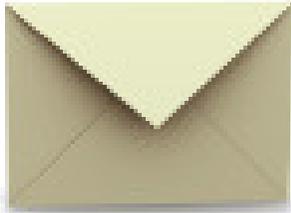
### Blue ships

The interest shown by industry is very encouraging: ECSCA/WSC has confirmed the participation of over 250 ships, proposed by ship owners via the national associations of 11 EU Member States.

### Communicating the project

All port customs authorities; ship owners; masters and agents will be informed about the Blue Belt pilot project. Holes in the port network must be avoided, and feedback will be needed to evaluate the project. ESPO will also play a role.

EMSA has prepared an information leaflet for distribution.



**Send** From: BlueBelt\_Pilot\_Project@emsa.europa.eu  
To: [Customs\\_authority\\_Port\\_1@EUcustoms.eu](mailto:Customs_authority_Port_1@EUcustoms.eu)  
Cc:  
Bcc:

Subject: Blue Belt Pilot Project - Ship Status Report n. 1234567890 - IMO 9954865  
Attached:  BlueBelt\_Ship\_Report\_A2\_ShipTrack\_Map.pdf (9 KB);  BlueBelt\_Ship\_Report\_Summary.pdf (9 KB);  BlueBelt\_Ship\_Report\_A1\_ShipCalls.pdf (9 KB)

Dear Madam/Sir,

Please find herewith the Blue Belt Status Report for the ship in subject.

This is an automatic e-mail, generated by the SafeSeaNet system and sent to you in the framework of the [BlueBelt](#) Pilot Project. Do not respond to this e-mail. Please contact EMSA Maritime Support Services should you need further clarification or information.

Yours Faithfully

The Blue Belt Project Team.

---

 **Maritime Support Services**  
Vessel Traffic and Reporting Services

European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)  
Cais do Sodré  
1249-206 Lisbon, Portugal  
Tel: +351 21 1209 415  
Fax: +351 21 1209 217  
<http://www.emsa.europa.eu>

---

 Be GREEN, keep it on the SCREEN -  Think before you print.

a) Attachment 1: "ship's summary report"

Vessel Details:

Name
Flag
IMO Number
MMSI Number
Call Sign
<b>Service Details</b>
Service Certificate (Regular Shipping Se)
Issued by: (Cus

Community go
Non-Communi
Goods in Trans
Mixed (specify
MRN - Moveme
UCRN - Unique
TDN - Transpo
CRN - Convey
EORI - Econor

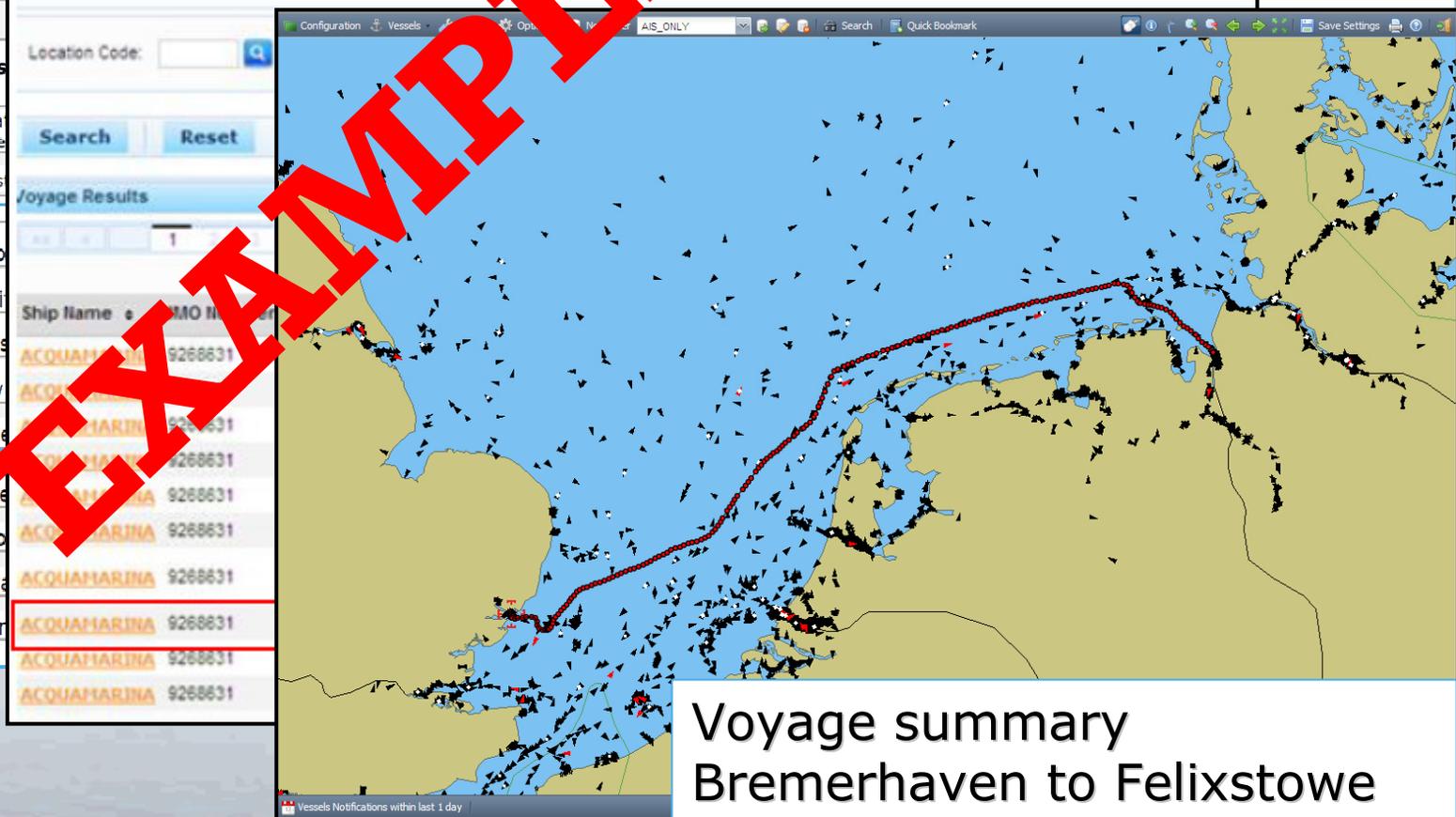
Search Vessel

IMO Number	MMSI Number	Call Sign	Ship Name
9268631			

Location Code:

Search Reset

List of ship calls



**EXAMPLE**

## The project has two operational phases:

### ✓ Phase 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June)

- Report is sent via email to custom authorities concerned in the port of call, 2 hours before arrival.

### ✓ Phase 2 (1<sup>st</sup> July – 3<sup>rd</sup> November), in addition to the above

- Custom authorities may have access to SafeSeaNet Blue Belt graphic interface upon request;
- Customs authorities receive information on ship behaviour (e.g. call at third port, encounter at sea etc.);
- Satellite-AIS will become available as back-up information.

Action	Deadline
Introduce draft implementation plan to ECG 179	23 February 2011
Validation of implementation plan by ECG 180	31 March 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Testing Blue Belt functionalities;</li> <li>- Final list of port custom authorities addresses;</li> <li>- Final list of "Blue Ships".</li> </ul>	26 April 2011
<u>Operational Phase 1</u> – only Blue Belt reports are sent to customs authorities.	2 May 2011
<u>Operational Phase 2</u> – behaviour indicators and custom data (optional) are added to the report.	1 July 2011
Project evaluation.	November 2011

Evaluation step	Timeline
1. Develop project evaluation methodology  Who: DG TAXUD/DG MOVE/EMSA	Ongoing
2. Monitoring of the project by Member States customs authorities; EMSA & Industry	May-November 2011
3. Overall project evaluation  Who: DG TAXUD/DG MOVE/EMSA with contributiona from ECSA/WSC/ESPO	November/December 2011
4. Presentation of project results and follow-up actions.  Who: DG TAXUD/DG MOVE/EMSA	December 2011



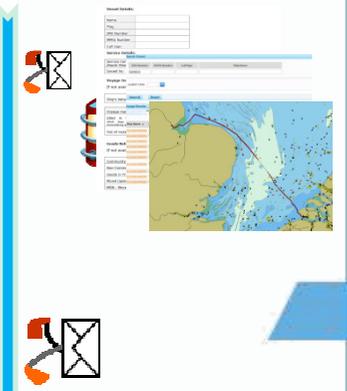
Port A

The ship departs from Port A towards port B

SafeSeaNet is notified about ship departure, ship voyage and arrival, by Member States coastal authorities



SafeSeaNet compiles the information in the Blue Belt status report and sends it to the custom authorities concerned



Custom authorities at the port of call receive information on the current and previous voyages, expected and actual time of arrival and departure, last and next port of call



Customs at Port B



Port B

Thank you

Contact: [james.wood@emsa.europa.eu](mailto:james.wood@emsa.europa.eu)