

1. FINDING and CONCLUSIONS

International cooperation in the field of emergency prevention, preparedness and response is based primarily on the provisions of international conventions and multi-lateral and bi-lateral agreements and arrangements. EPPR concludes that the international conventions and instruments currently in force, agreed to, or still under preparation appear to cover the present needs for Arctic cooperation on risks identified by EPPR.

EPPR endorses the process of reviewing bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements by the countries involved. EPPR will continue to facilitate information sharing on such agreements.

EPPR believes that the necessary legal framework exists to deal with obligatory navigational corridors, prohibited sailing areas, and the obligatory use of pilots when sailing ships in Arctic waters. These questions could be addressed in other international fora.

The Arctic states participate in international emergency cooperation as members of the United Nations and its specialized organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). This allows these states to bring the Arctic dimension to these other fora.

2. BACKGROUND

The EPPR Working Group was originally established as an experts forum with two main objectives:

- to review existing bilateral and multilateral arrangements in order to evaluate the adequacy of the geographical coverage of the Arctic regions by co-operative arrangements; and
- to consider and recommend the necessary system of co-operation within the EPPR mandate

3. METHOD

The overall approach was to:

- identify the activities posing high risks in the Arctic (footnote 1 Risk Assessment)
- determine which instruments and agreements related to these risks
- identify gaps via a questionnaire, and
- make recommendations to address the gaps identified.

Countries answered the questionnaire based on their self-identified risks..

4. RISKS

The activities posing high risks are ...pg v, para 2 &3

5. AGREEMENTS

EPPR identified the following agreements that relate to activities posing high risks in the Arctic. These agreements are: in force; cover at least part of the Arctic; pertain to emergency prevention,

EPPR requests that the SAOs take note that, based on a comprehensive risk assessment process, country surveys of bi-lateral and multi-lateral agreements, and a detailed analysis of the arrangements related to the identified risks, the EPPR conclusion that international conventions and instruments currently in force, agreed to, or still under preparation appear to cover the present needs for Arctic cooperation.

EPPR requests that the SAOs endorse the findings and conclusions of EPPR.