



# SARUMS



## Safety and Regulations for European Unmanned Maritime Systems

Unmanned maritime systems is one of the agreed 22 priority areas with a potential to become successful as joint European research work in the European Defence R&T (EDRT) strategy. Unmanned maritime systems also have strong links to Maritime Mine Counter-Measures, being one of the priority areas in the parallel European military capability strategic work that resulted in a Capability Development Plan (CDP). As result, several research projects with participation from many EU nations in the area of unmanned maritime systems came together in the European Defence Agency UMS (Unmanned Maritime Systems) programme.

UMS has the objective to enhance European capabilities in a number of naval applications by means of several research projects related to unmanned systems. Unmanned vehicles in particular are expected to be an integrated part of modern fleets. Given the expeditionary nature of modern European naval operations it is necessary to address interoperability issues.

National or international rules, regulation and legislation governing safe operations at sea and applicable to unmanned maritime vehicles are virtually non-existent. Common understanding of minimum safety procedures and a joint view on rules and regulations among European navies would enhance interoperability in future joint maritime operations and training.

To establish a foundation to achieving the important interoperability, a forum was created to address all regulations, legislation and safety issues related to design and operations of UMS. The forum evolved to project group part of the UMS research programme with the name **SARUMS** (abbreviation for Safety and Regulations for European Unmanned Maritime Systems).

The objective of **SARUMS** is to provide European Navies a best practice safety framework for Unmanned Maritime Systems that recognises their operational usage, legal status and the needs of Navies. The philosophy behind this guidance will be based on the management of risk as well as applicable rules and regulations. The group is currently developing a document for this purpose titled:

*Best practice guide for UMS handling, operations, design and regulations.*

A significant improvement in interoperability and standardisation in design and operation of Unmanned Maritime Vehicles is expected if nations decide to adopt this guidance document.

The **SARUMS** group agenda also includes arranging expert forum conferences. Experts such as UMS users, designers, regulatory and legislation experts and maritime administrations will be invited to review and discuss project work and conclusions.

### Contact:

The SARUMS group has members from Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and Sweden.

For more information please contact European Defence Agency (EDA) UMS co-ordination, SARUMS Chairman or any national representative:

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