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**Cyprus
and
Israel**

**Agreement on the coordination of aeronautical and maritime search and rescue services
between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of
Israel. Nicosia, 16 February 2012**

Entry into force: 27 July 2013, in accordance with article 15

Authentic texts: English, Greek and Hebrew

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**Chypre
et
Israël**

**Accord sur la coordination des services de recherche et de sauvetage aéronautiques et
maritimes entre le Gouvernement de la République de Chypre et le Gouvernement de
l'État d'Israël. Nicosie, 16 février 2012**

Entrée en vigueur : 27 juillet 2013, conformément à l'article 15

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[ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS]

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL
ON
THE COORDINATION OF AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME
SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the State of Israel, (hereinafter referred to collectively as “the Parties” and individually as “the Party”);

RECOGNISING the importance of cooperation in Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) and the need to ensure expeditious and effective search and rescue services on and over the sea;

NOTING the provisions of the International Convention on Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, as amended, and the standards and recommended practices contained in Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, as amended, in relation to search and rescue, as well as those contained in the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended, and with due regard to the national legislation of each Party;

HAVE AGREED as follows:

Article 1

Competent Authorities and Rescue Coordination Centres

- (1) The Competent Authorities of the Parties for this Agreement are:
- (a) For the Republic of Cyprus, the Ministry of Communications and Works; and
 - (b) For the State of Israel, the Ministry of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety.

(2) The Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCs) of the Parties involved in the implementation of the SAR operational aspects of this Agreement are:

- (a) For the Republic of Cyprus, the Larnaca Joint Rescue Coordination Centre; and
- (b) For the State of Israel, the Haifa Rescue Coordination Centre.

(3) In this Agreement the term:

“Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC)” covers the term Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre and/or Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre and/or Joint Rescue Coordination Centre; and

“craft” covers every maritime and aviation craft.

Article 2

Search and Rescue Regions

(1) The Search and Rescue Regions (SRRs) of the Parties are determined as follows:

- (a) For the Republic of Cyprus, the Nicosia Flight Information Region; and
- (b) For the State of Israel, the Tel Aviv Flight Information Region,

as defined in the Air Navigation Plan for the European Region of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO Doc. 7754).

(2) The delimitation of SRRs is not related to and shall not prejudice the delimitation of any boundary between the Parties.

Article 3

Scope of this Agreement

Both Parties agree to cooperate in the following areas through their respective RCCs:

- (a) Assist each other, to the extent possible, in the conduct of SAR missions in their respective SRRs and across the common SRRs boundary;
- (b) Authorise their RCCs to request assistance from the RCC of the other Party and to provide all pertinent information of the distress situation and the scope of assistance required;
- (c) Authorise their RCCs to promptly respond to distress calls and requests for assistance from the RCC of the other Party;

- (d) Develop procedures and communications appropriate for coordination among facilities of both Parties responding to the same distress incident and for coordination between the RCCs of the Parties;
- (e) Apply, to the extent possible, the guidance of the International Aeronautical and Maritime Search and Rescue (IAMSAR) Manual, as amended, regarding SAR operational procedures and communications;
- (f) Cooperate to establish agreed procedures regarding entry of various types of SAR units into the SRR of the other Party, solely for SAR operation, including operational needs of the SAR units as defined by the RCC;
- (g) Exchange information on current SAR resources available to ensure mutual knowledge of each other's SAR capabilities;
- (h) Exchange useful SAR operational and procedural documents to help promote mutual understanding and common procedures;
- (i) Conduct communications checks between their respective RCCs at least once per calendar month, to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the SAR communications links;
- (j) Conduct periodic SAR exercises to test their ability to coordinate a SAR response in and across their SRRs;
- (k) Exchange visits of, and organise joint training for, the RCC personnel of both Parties; and
- (l) Establish a SAR committee as a means for on-going cooperation and for improving the effectiveness of their SAR services.

Article 4

Standard Operating Procedures for the Rescue Coordination Centres

Both Parties agree in relation to:

- (a) The determination of the responsible RCC that:

The RCC responsible for initiating SAR action shall be determined as follows:

- (1) When the position of the craft and/or persons in distress or needing assistance is known, action will be initiated by the RCC in whose SRR the craft and/or persons are located; or
- (2) When the position of the craft and/or persons is unknown, SAR action will be initiated by the RCC, which first becomes aware that the craft and/or persons may need assistance. The RCC initiating a SAR

operation will remain in charge of the SAR mission until the responsible RCC takes over. The responsible RCC will be either:

- (i) The RCC in whose SRR the craft was operating and/or persons were located when the last contact with them was made; or
- (ii) The RCC into whose SRR the craft and/or persons were proceeding when the last contact with them was made near or on the common SRRs boundary;

- (b) The transferring of the coordination responsibility that:

When a transfer of responsibility for SAR coordination is to take place, either from the subsequent establishment of the craft's and/or persons' position or movement, or because an RCC other than the one initiating the action is more favourably placed to assume control of the SAR mission by reason of better communications, proximity to the search area, more readily available SAR units, or any other reasons, the following procedures will be adopted:

- (1) Direct communication will be conducted between the Search and Rescue Mission Coordinators (SMCs) concerned, to determine the best course of action;
- (2) If it is decided that a transfer of responsibility is appropriate for the whole SAR mission or part thereof, full details of the previous action taken up to that time will be exchanged;
- (3) The details to be provided in the process of transfer of responsibility between RCCs will be as follows:
 - (i) Date and time of transfer;
 - (ii) From RCC;
 - (iii) To RCC;
 - (iv) Identity of casualty;
 - (v) Position;
 - (vi) Number of persons in distress;
 - (vii) Description of casualty;
 - (viii) Weather on scene;
 - (ix) Initial action taken;
 - (x) Areas already searched;
 - (xi) Alerted units;
 - (xii) Current/present search in sub-areas;
 - (xiii) Endurance of existing SAR units on scene;
 - (xiv) Availability of SAR units on scene (hours/days);
 - (xv) Communication plan; and
 - (xvi) Confirmation that all participating SAR units have been advised of the transfer of the responsibility; and