



Letter of Intent

in support of the “MUNIMAR – Centre for the Management of Munitions in the Marine Environment” initiative

Preamble

The undersigned institutions and organizations recognize the strategic importance of a structured, coordinated and scientifically sound approach to dealing with munitions in the marine environment for the benefit of the environment, security, the economy and society.

For more than 80 years, large quantities of conventional and chemical munitions have been present in the North and Baltic Seas. As corrosion progresses, hazardous substances are increasingly released into the marine environment, posing risks to ecosystems, maritime infrastructure, fisheries, tourism and human health. Unexploded and dumped munitions in the North and Baltic Seas therefore represent a long-term challenge in terms of security, environmental protection and economic policy. At the same time, addressing legacy munitions in the marine environment requires new technological solutions and expertise, creating opportunities for increased maritime value creation.

Against this background, MUNIMAR is being established as a competence centre that brings together regional stakeholders, consolidates knowledge and develops operational structures for dealing with munitions in the marine environment. MUNIMAR is intended to serve as a state-level component of a future national competence centre and as a structuring platform for public administration, science and industry.

The objective is to establish a high-performance and sustainable system for dealing with munitions at sea through coordination, knowledge development, standardization and economic networking.

Common Understanding

The undersigned share the following guiding principles:

1. Integrated Approach

MUNIMAR represents an integrated approach involving public administration, science and industry. By pooling responsibilities, knowledge and operational expertise, procedures are to be harmonized, the basis for decision-making improved, and clearance measures strategically prioritized.

2. Science as the Structural Foundation

Scientific findings form the basis for prioritization, environmental assessment, technology development and risk assessment. MUNIMAR consolidates, structures and expands knowledge and makes it available to policymakers, public administration, industry and society.

3. Coordination and Standardization

The development of common standards, procedures, assessment criteria and data structures are intended to make munitions clearance more efficient, safer, more transparent and more predictable.

4. Industry and Innovation as Implementation Partners

Industry is a key partner in technological development, operational implementation, training and qualification, as well as in establishing a new maritime economic sector in the fields of detection, recovery, disposal and monitoring of marine munitions.

5. National Integration and International Perspective

MUNIMAR will operate as a state-level centre in close coordination with national structures as well as national and international partners, contributing to the development of common standards and technologies.

6. Transparency, Knowledge Transfer and Societal Dialogue

A structured dialogue between science, public administration, industry, policymakers and the public are the basis for evidence-based decision-making, transparency regarding risks and societal acceptance.

7. Open Platform

MUNIMAR understands itself as an open platform for additional partners from public administration, science, industry and international organizations.

Declaration of Intent

The undersigned institutions, organizations or companies declare their intention to:

- actively support the establishment and further development of MUNIMAR;
- contribute, where possible, their expertise, data, infrastructure, projects, networks and/or financial or structural resources;

- support the development of structures in the areas of coordination, knowledge management, standardization, training and qualification, and innovation;
- act as reliable partners in the long-term establishment of MUNIMAR;
- actively promote cooperation between public administration, science and industry.

Entry into Force

This Letter of Intent shall enter into force upon signature by the participating parties. This Letter of Intent may be withdrawn at any time.

Non-Binding Nature

This Letter of Intent serves exclusively to describe the common intentions and objectives of the undersigned. It is legally non-binding and does not create any obligations to provide financial resources, personnel or infrastructure, nor does it create any obligation to implement specific projects or enter into further agreements.

Each party shall independently determine, within the scope of its respective responsibilities, statutory duties and available public or corporate funds, the nature and extent of any potential involvement.

Next Steps

The undersigned affirm their commitment to continuing the dialogue and jointly shaping and implementing MUNIMAR at the operational level. This includes, in particular:

- further specifying the target vision and organizational structure;
- defining roles, responsibilities and cooperation formats within the three pillars of public administration, science and industry;
- establishing a structured network and a Knowledge Hub;
- developing common standards, training and qualification formats, and pilot projects;
- preparing and disseminating information; and
- identifying and making use of funding opportunities at state, national and EU level.

Signature

in Support of the “MUNIMAR – Centre for the Management of Munitions in the Marine Environment” Initiative

The undersigned institution/organization/company hereby confirms its support for the content of the joint Letter of Intent and its intention to actively contribute in accordance with the objectives set out therein.



MUNIMAR

Zentrum für den Umgang mit
Munition in der marinen Umwelt

Organization/Institution/Company: _____

Name/Position (in block letters): _____

Place/Date: _____

Signature: _____

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