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PRESS RELEASE

CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS

In order to promote the working and living conditions onboard ships in the Black Sea region, the Committee of the Black Sea MOU agreed during its 6th meeting to conduct a concentrated inspection campaign (CIC) on working and living conditions onboard. The six member Maritime Authorities (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine) of the Black Sea Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control will start a concentrated inspection campaign focussing on living and working conditions as of 1 September 2005. The inspection campaign will last 3 months, ending on 30 November 2005.

The CIC inspections will be conducted in conjunction with routine port State control inspections and during every port State control inspection within the Black Sea region, the working and living conditions shall be verified in more detail for compliance with the international standards of ILO Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 147) and the Protocol 1996 to ILO 147.

The inspection shall be focussed on the accommodation (including hospital), the galley and food and water supplies and storage, as well as hours of work/rest and working schedules. For this purpose Port State Control Officers shall use a standard check list of 12 selected areas and items of inspection.

If deficiencies are found, the Port State Control Officer will conduct an in depth investigation into working and living conditions on board.

All inspections will be inserted in the Black Sea Information System. The results of the campaign shall be analysed early next year and will be submitted to the Committee of the Black Sea MOU.

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