BLACK SEA MOU SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE BLACK MOU PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE HELD IN TURKEY

İstanbul, Turkey – Port State Control Committee, the governing body of the Memorandum of Understanding on port State control in the Black Sea region (Black Sea MOU), held its seventh meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, from 18 to 20 April 2006 under the chairmanship by Captain Valerian Imnaishvili (Georgia). The meeting was attended by the delegations of the member Authorities of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Representatives from the Secretariats of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the West and Central Africa Memorandum of Understanding (Abuja MOU), the Black Sea Commission, and the United States Coast Guard(USCG), attended the meeting as observers. Representatives of the Maritime Authorities from the Republic of Moldova and Italian Coast Guard (Italian CG) participated in the meeting as guests.

One of the most significant events in the work of the Black Sea MOU Committee Session was participation of the BS MOU Committee in the first joint working session with the MED MOU Committee and adoption of the Joint Declaration on harmonization both Memoranda activity on the PSC.

The Port State Control Committee considered issues regarding Manual for PSC Officers such as expected revisions, periodical revisions, amendment procedures and incorporation of new guidelines and procedures such as Guidelines on MARPOL Annex VI and procedures for the initial and follow-up inspections into the Manual.

The Port State Control Committee also discussed issues regarding information exchange, PSC inspection statistics, determination of individual ships for inspection ports and Authorities, ship targeting, on-line publication of the detention and ship black lists and agreed to invite the Russian Federation to negoitate with the IMO Secretariat on technical details of data exchange between Black Sea Information System(BSIS) and IMO; and agreed to authorize the BSIS to provide relevant information to IMO on behalf of the BS MOU member Authorities in agreed format.

The Port State Control Committee noting with satisfaction of the progress made in implementation of the procedures for the determination of the individual ship visits and development of the Data Base of Individual ship visit(SBISV) and web-interface for DBISV developed by the Black Sea Regional Information Center(BSRIC) and extended its appreciation to the BSRIC for the development of such an unique project and invited Authorities to use DBISV on a constant basis for the preparation of reliable regional PSC inspection statistics.

Having considered the positive results of the development and initial implementation of the ship targeting system, criteria for ship black list by the Russian Federation, the Port State Control Committee decided to continue trial implementation and publication on the BS MOU web-site internal section.

The Committee took note of the statistical report on CIC on controlling working and living conditions onboard ships in accordance with the requirements of International Labour Organization held from 01st September to 30th November, 2005. During carrying out CIC were inspected 1065 ships, filled in 797 check-lists. It was noted with satisfaction, that only five ships were detained owing to the deficiencies, concerning to performance of ILO Conventions requirements. The Committee agreed on the plan of further CICs for the coming years, namely; CIC on GMDSS from 01 June to 30 August 2006; CIC on MARPOL 73/78 from 01 October to 30 December 2006; and CIC on the ISM Code in 2007 which will be conducted simultaneously with the Paris MOU, Tokyo MOU, US Coast Guard and the other MOUs.

The Port State Control Committee considered the BS MOU list of follow-up actions emanating from the Ministerial Declaration “Strengthening the Circle of Responsibility” of the Second Joint Paris MOU/Tokyo MOU Ministerial Conference on Port State Control and agreed on its implementation.

The Port State Control Committee considered guiding principles for the representation at the IMO meetings as an IGO, within the terms of co-operation agreement concluded with IMO, which will allow regional PSC regimes to take more active role and contribute directly to the initiatives by IMO for global harmonization and co-operation on PSC activities.

The Committee noted with satisfaction of initiation of the interregional PSC Officers exchange programme with the Paris MOU and expressed its appreciation to Paris MOU receiving Authorities and willingnes to recieve PSC officers from the Paris MOU member authorities. The Committee also adopted terms of reference PSC Officer Exchange programme with the MED MOU and course of action for the preparation of the 2006 exchange programme.

The Committee thanked Captain Valerian Imnaishvili for his contribution in the Committee developments being a Chairman and since his term expired at the end of the meeting elected Captain Ilker Tuncer(Turkey) as Chairman, and Captain Ventsislav Ivanov(Bulgaria) as Vice Chairman.

The eigth meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in Varna, Bulgaria in 16-20 April 2006.

Istanbul, Turkey,
12 May 2006