BLACK SEA MOU SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)

The six member Maritime Authorities (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine) of the Black Sea Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control will carry out a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) with the purpose to ensure that the ship's radio station complies with Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). This will also include verification that radio operators are able to demonstrate that the station is in a satisfactory working condition and used for its intended purpose. Starting on June 01, 2006, the inspection campaign will last 3 months, ending on August 30, 2006. The Campaign Coordinator Authority is the Republic of Turkey Undersecretary for Maritime Affairs.

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 ship's GMDSS, its equipment, operation and correct recording of communications and maintenance shall be verified in more detail for compliance with SOLAS, STCW Code and ISM Code.

For this purpose Port State Control Officers shall use a standard check list of 12 selected areas and items of inspection. For this purpose Port State Control Officer(PSCO)s will apply a questionnaire listing 15 questions in total to cover this concentrated inspection.

If deficiencies are found in the GMDSS area on board, the PSCO will have "clear grounds for a more detailed inspection" and additional items in the GMDSS (and other areas) could be subject to verification. Serious deficiencies may lead to the detention of the ship until they have been rectified.

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.

16 May 2006
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