

PRESS RELEASE

BLACK SEA MOU HELD ITS TWENTY-THIRD PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING IN CONSTANTA, ROMANIA

Constanta, ROMANIA – Representatives of the Port State Control Committee, the governing body under the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Black Sea Region (BS MoU), met in-person presence in Constanta, ROMANIA, for the Twenty-third session from 25 to 28 April 2023. Those who were unable to attend were given the opportunity to participate online.

The meeting was chaired by Captain Alexandar ILIEV - Deputy Harbour Master of Port Burgas, BULGARIA. Captain Cosmin Laurențiu DUMITRACHE, General Director of the Romanian Naval Authority and the Vice-Chair of the PSC23 meeting made a welcome speech and officially declared the opening of the meeting. In his opening speech, Captain DUMITRACHE first welcomed all delegates to Constanta and stressed the vital role of port State control in ensuring a safe environment at sea for human life, ships, ports and overall, maritime related activities. Expressing that promoting and supporting cooperation is the key to our success, he highlighted that this could not have been done by one country alone and that strengthening the regional and international cooperation ensured effective mechanisms for responding to unsafe and sub-standard shipping.

The twenty-third meeting of the Port State Control Committee was attended by all the 6 member Authorities of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Türkiye and Ukraine and observers of Moldova, the Abuja MoU, the Mediterranean MoU-represented by the delegation of Türkiye, the Paris MoU, the Tokyo MoU and the Viña del Mar Agreement attended to the meeting. Observers of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Caribbean MoU, the Indian Ocean MoU, the Riyadh MoU, USCG and the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution were unable to attend.

For facilitating further harmonization among regional Port State Control regimes, the Committee approved the proposal for obtaining observer status at all the regional PSC regimes. The Committee also agreed unanimously to accept the Indian Ocean MoU, the Tokyo MoU and the Viña del Mar Agreement as observers of the Black Sea MoU.

The Committee considered the Black Sea Port State Control Guidelines and technical procedures. The Committee noted the Guidance to Implement and Adopt Procedures Against Maritime Corruption “FAL.5/Circ.48” adopted by IMO and the works done by the Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN) and agreed to establish further cooperation with MACN.

The Committee also considered amendments to the strategic plan and actions for addressing new challenges and relevant countermeasures.

The Committee, to improve the MoU databases and enhancement, agreed to further investigate to introduce a reformed report submission procedure. To provide increased fault tolerance and high availability of data, the Committee agreed to approve the BSIS revision plan to make its structure more fault tolerant and ensure the stability of operation using existing servers and additional software.

The Committee agreed to investigate the opportunity of offering financial support mechanism by the Black Sea MoU to enhance PSC training activities in the region and to promote closer cooperation and communication between Authorities.

The Committee agreed to participate in the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) Black and Caspian Sea II Project as an observer and investigate further cooperation with EMSA to establish joint events. The Committee, with aiming to increase the Black Sea MoU capabilities and exchange views, also agreed to host EMSA at the next Committee meeting.

In order to enhance clarity and facilitate efficient retrieval of pertinent information and to present information in a systematic, logical and organized manner, the Committee agreed to update its Reporting Formats of the Annual Report, CIC Evaluation Report, Ship Watch List and Detention List.

The report of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), carried out from September to November of 2022, was discussed and approved by the Committee. This report will be published on the BS MoU website in the near future. The Committee further reviewed and approved arrangements and preparations for the joint CIC with the Paris MoU and Tokyo MoU; and agreed to carry out CIC on Fire Safety during the period of 01 September - 30 November 2023. The Committee nominated the Maritime Administration of Türkiye to act as campaign coordinator.

Following a three-year hiatus as a result of the Covid-19, Pandemic, taking into account the progress previously achieved in the implementation of the regional and interregional Port State Control Officers Exchange programme, as well as the normalising situation within the region, the member Authorities of the Black Sea MoU have decided to resume PSCO Exchanges.

The Committee elected Captain Cosmin Laurențiu DUMITRACHE, General Director of the Romanian Naval Authority, as the Chair of the Committee.

The 24th meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in Batumi, GEORGIA in April 2024.

05 May 2023

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