

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **BLACK SEA MoU HELD ITS SEVENTEENTH PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING IN SOCHI, RUSSIA**

**Sochi, the Russian Federation** – 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 Sochi, Russia, for the Seventeenth session from 12 to 14 April 2016.

The meeting was chaired by Capt. Vakhtang TAVBERIDZE – Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia.

Deputy Minister of Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, Mr. Viktor OLERSKY, in his opening speech, stressed the important role of BS MoU in port State control and the responsibilities of Russia as both flag State and port State. He expressed Russia's gratitude and appreciation to all the Black Sea countries for their valuable support which contributed to the success of the initiative. Moreover, he encouraged BS MoU to further enhance and improve its activities so as to promote safety of navigation, protection of the marine environment and the labour conditions on board ships. Lastly, he reaffirmed the commitment and continuous support from Russia to the BS MoU and declared opening of the meeting officially.

The BS MoU was concluded on 7 April 2000 and came into operation on 19 December 2000 after the first preparatory meeting in Varna in 1999. At present, the BS MoU consists of 6 member Authorities: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. The Maritime Authority of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the United States Coast Guard, the International Maritime Organization, the International Labour Organization and the Secretariats of the Paris, Mediterranean, West and Central Africa and Riyadh Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control as well as the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution are associated with the BS MoU as observers.

The seventeenth meeting of the Port State Control Committee in Sochi was attended by the member States of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. Representatives of the ABUJA MoU participated in the meeting as observer. The Mediterranean MoU was represented by the delegation of Turkey. Observers from Republic of Azerbaijan, IMO, ILO, USCG, Paris MoU, the Riyadh MoU were unable to attend.

The main objective of the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control in the Black Sea Region is to establish an effective PSC regime in the Black Sea region through cooperation and harmonization of the PSC activities of the member Authorities. It aims at eliminating sub-standard shipping, so as to promote maritime safety, to protect the marine environment and to safeguard working and living conditions on board.

The Committee discussed matters relating to technical procedures and guidelines, concentrated inspection campaigns, information system and information exchange, evaluation of work done by the Secretariat and the BSIS Manager, statistical analysis, evaluation of the BS MoU performance and effectiveness of the PSC inspections of the member Authorities, regional and interregional technical co-operation activities.

The Committee considered the report on the concentrated inspection campaign (CIC) on Crew Familiarization and Enclosed Space Entry between 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2015 and 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2015. The Committee agreed to carry out CIC on Cargo Securing Arrangements in 2016 jointly with the Tokyo MoU and to join Paris and Tokyo MoU to carry out CIC on Safety of Navigation in 2017. The Committee agreed in principle to carry out CIC on MLC 2006 in 2018 and take final decision at its next meeting in April 2017. The Committee nominated Maritime Administration of Turkey to act as campaign coordinator for the CIC on Cargo Securing Arrangements in 2016.

The Committee considered the outcome of the study on the harmonization of the qualification criteria of PSCO and agreed on the minimum criteria for the PSCOs and amendment of the existing Qualification Criteria for PSCOs.

The Committee further agreed on the BS MoU Policy on the Training of New Entrant PSC Officers and Policy on the Standards for Professional Development Scheme for the PSC Officers.

In order to further harmonize inspection types and clear grounds with the Paris MoU the Committee agree to amend its inspection scheme by incorporation expanded inspection into the initial and more detailed inspection, and to make consequent amendment to its procedures with an effective date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

The Committee considered with pleasure development of dedicated Rule Check for the BS MoU within the maintenance and further enhancement of EU Rule Check and DLP within the scope of the TRACECA Maritime Safety and Security II Project to the BS MoU member States.

The Committee observed with satisfaction the continuous progress achieved in the implementation of regional and interregional Port State Control Officers Exchange programme. In this regard, the Committee expressed appreciation to the Authorities for their support, participation and co-operation.

The Committee agreed to conclude agreement on the provision of PSC inspection data to EQUASIS and instructed the Secretariat and the BS Manager for follow-up action.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in Turkey, on April 2017.

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

### **Contact**

Black Sea MoU Secretariat

Kemankes Karamustafapasa Mah. Kemankes Cad.

No.63 4/412 Istanbul 34425 Turkey

Telephone: +90 212 2491728 Fax: +90 212 2925277

E-mail: [bsmousecretariat@superonline.com](mailto:bsmousecretariat@superonline.com) Web-site: [www.bsmou.org](http://www.bsmou.org)