

PRESS RELEASE

BLACK SEA MOU HELD ITS TWENTIETH PORT STATE CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING IN BURGAS, BULGARIA

Burgas, Bulgaria – 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 Burgas, Bulgaria, for the Twentieth session from 16 to 18 April 2019. The meeting was chaired by Captain Dmytro PETRENKO - Head of the Maritime Administration of the Ukraine. Mr. Petar KIROV - Chief Secretary of Bulgarian Maritime Administration made a welcome speech and officially declared the opening of the meeting. Mr. Kirov stressed the vital role of port State control for promotion of safer shipping and cleaner seas. He expressed that Bulgaria praised the great achievement and success of the BS MOU during the years. He reassured the full cooperation and continuous contribution from Bulgaria to the BS MOU.

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 Paris, Mediterranean, West and Central Africa MOUs as well as the Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution are associated with the BS MOU as observers.

The twentieth meeting of the Port State Control Committee in Burgas was attended by the member States of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine. General Director of the Paris MOU Secretariat attended to the meeting. The Mediterranean MOU was represented by the delegation of Turkey. Republic of Azerbaijan, IMO, ILO, Riyadh MOU, ABUJA MOU, USCG, Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution were unable to attend.

Mr. Luc Smulders, Secretary General of Memorandum of Paris MOU, made a key note speech. During the speech, Mr. Smulders introduced organisational structure of the Paris MOU and explained the planning of Paris MOU New Inspection Regime.

The Committee considered the application of the for observer status by Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Moldova. The Committee agreed to accept the Republic of Kazakhstan and Republic of Moldova as an observers of the Black Sea MOU.

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 protection of the unique Black Sea natural resources 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 considered BS MOU and Members performance analysis using regional MOUs BGW list and targeting system data presented in the respective annual reports. The Committee agreed further global analysis of the performance of the member States ship fleet using inspection and detention data of the PSC regimes.

The report of the CIC on MARPOL Annex VI, carried out in September to November of 2018, was discussed. Although the results showed a good level of compliance, the objective of the Campaign on the MARPOL Annex VI aimed at checking the level of compliance with the requirements of MARPOL Annex VI within the shipping industry and to create awareness amongst ships' crew and ship owners with regard to the importance of compliance with the provisions of MARPOL Annex VI and the prevention of air pollution.

The Committee reviewed and approved arrangements for the CIC on "Emergency System and Procedures"; and agreed to carry out CIC on during the period of 01 September - 30 November 2019 jointly with the Paris MOU and Tokyo MOU. The Committee nominated Maritime Administration of Bulgaria to act as campaign co-ordinator. The Committee considered possible topics for future CICs and agreed to carry out a CIC on Stability in General in 2020. The Committee nominated Maritime Administration of Romania to act as campaign co-ordinator.

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 considered and approved a number of revised guidelines for PSC Officers; including guidelines on the ECDIS, guidelines on the MLC, guidelines on BWM and guidelines Hours of Work or Rest and Fitness for duty.

The Committee considered the "non-rectified deficiencies" issue and it was noted that the experts should be instructed by the member States to ensure that the outstanding deficiencies are closed before inspection and in case the deficiencies could not be closed, they should be recorded in the new audit report.

The Committee elected Captain Alexandar ILIEV, Harbour Master Port of Burgas the Bulgarian Maritime Administration, as the new Chairman and Mr. Laurentiu ZANFIR Romanian Naval Authority, as the new Vice Chairman of the Committee.

The 21st meeting of the Port State Control Committee will be held in Constanta, Romania, end of March 2020.

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