

INFORMATION ABOUT MEDITERRANEAN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

The Third Final Preparatory Meeting on the establishment of a PSC Agreement in the Mediterranean region took place in Valletta, Malta, from 8 to 11 July 1997, At the end of the Meeting the Mediterranean MOU on PSC was signed by the Representatives of eight Countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey). Late 1997 the Med. MOU was signed by Lebanon & in July 1999 by Jordan.

The Mediterranean MoU Committee had Ninth Meetings:

- The 1st Committee Meeting was held in Alexandria, Egypt (24-26 Feb. 1998).
- The 2nd Meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey (14-16 Oct.1998).
- The 3rd Committee Meeting was held in Limassol, Cyprus (6-8 Oct.1999).
- The 4th was in Valletta, Malta (14-18 July 2001).
- The 5th was in Limassol, Cyprus (26-28 March 2002).
- The 6th Committee Meeting was in Aqaba, Jordan (7 -10 Oct. 2003)
- The 7 th Committee Meeting was in Alexandria, Egypt (31 -2 Feb. 2005)
- The 8th Committee Meeting and the First Joint Session with the Black Sea MoU was in Istanbul, Turkey (17-21April2006).
- The 10th Committee Meeting was in Casablanca, Morocco (29-31 October2007).

The 11th Committee Meeting of the Med MoU on PSC, is scheduled to be held in September-November 2008

Within the International effort to increase the Maritime Safety and the prevention of pollution and within the activities of the Euro-Med conference that was held in Barcelona 28th of November 1995, it was declared the birth of cooperation project financed by the E.C. under the umbrella of the IMO and ILO. This declaration was developed according to STCW 95 and the international community interest in activating the role of Port State Control to a proposed agreement for southern and eastern Mediterranean countries for a Port State Control System.

This agreement was prepared through two meetings the 1st was held in Tunisia 25-29 March 1996 and the 2nd in Casablanca, Morocco from 10-14 December 1996. On the 8th-11th of July 1997 the third and final preparatory meeting was held in Malta for signing an MOU between the participating countries to confirm the responsibility of the maritime authorities to implement the relevant instruments agreed upon on ships calling the ports of the Memorandum to enforce the elimination of sub-standard and ships for a safer-shipping and cleaner oceans.

It is known that the responsibility for ensuring that ships comply with the provisions of the relevant instruments rests upon the owners, masters and the flag States. Some flag States fail to fulfill their commitments contained in agreed international legal instruments and subsequently some ships are sailing in an unsafe condition, threatening the lives as well as the marine environment. Port State control is a system of harmonized inspection procedures designed to target sub-standards ships with the main objective being their eventual elimination.

Having recognized that the main responsibility lies with the flag State on the one hand and the inability for a variety of reasons of some of flag States to meet, entirely, their obligations under the conventions resulting in the existence of substandard ships it is imperative to develop close co-operation between flag States and port

States. It is a fact that the most important largest Registries have become so due to the attraction of ships whose beneficial ownership belongs to traditional maritime countries which again, for a variety of reasons have chosen a particular port of regulation as oppose to others. It is in the best interest of all to develop an effective flag State /port State interfaces for the sake of safe shipping.

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