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COUNCIL  
90th session  
Agenda item 34

C 90/34  
5 February 2003  
Original: ENGLISH

## APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** This document concerns the nomination of Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos by His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece, to the position of Secretary-General of the Organization.

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 5

**Related documents:** C 89/30

1 At its eighty-ninth session in November 2002, the Council considered the matter of the appointment of a new Secretary-General and adopted the following decision.

### 30 APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (agenda item 30)

- 30.1 The Council decided that the procedures which were followed in 1988 should continue to be followed, as set out in paragraph 4 of document C 89/30, with the final date for the submission of candidacies being 31 March 2003.
- 30.2 The Council further decided that candidates should be nominated by Member States.
- 30.3 The Council instructed the Secretary-General to issue the relevant communications to Member States.

2 Pursuant to the Council's decision above, the Secretary-General circulated a Note Verbale, No. A1/B/1.19(NV.32) of 19 December 2002, to all Member States informing them that:

- (i) the post of Secretary-General will become vacant on 1 January 2004;
- (ii) the Council, in accordance with Article 22 of the IMO Convention, will take the necessary action at its ninetieth session in June 2003 with regard to the appointment of a Secretary-General, for submission to the Assembly for its approval at its next regular session;

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- (iii) nominations of candidates for the position of Secretary-General are invited from Member States and should reach IMO by 31 March 2003 at the latest;
- (iv) the Secretary-General will circulate to Members of the Council, without delay, any candidacies received, or any other communications received in response to this Note Verbale; and
- (v) the matter of the appointment of the Secretary-General will be placed on the agenda of the ninetieth session of the Council.

3 Annexed to this document is a letter dated 15 January 2003 and attachment received from His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Greece nominating Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos to the post of Secretary-General, which was forwarded to the Secretary-General by His Excellency the Ambassador of Greece on 3 February 2003.

4 For ease of reference, Article 22 of the IMO Convention which governs the appointment of the Secretary-General, is reproduced below:

“The Council, with the approval of the Assembly, shall appoint the Secretary-General. The Council shall also make provision for the appointment of such other personnel as may be necessary, and determine the terms and conditions of service of the Secretary-General and other personnel, which terms and conditions shall conform as far as possible with those of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.”

#### **Action requested of the Council**

5 The Council is invited to take note of the information in this document and any subsequent addenda and to decide accordingly.

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## ANNEX



THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Athens, January 13, 2003  
Ref No : 84

*Dear Secretary - General,*

I have the honour to refer to Note Verbale A1/B/1.19 (NV 32) of 19 December 2002, concerning the appointment of a new Secretary – General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), whose post will become vacant as of 1 January 2004.

In this regard, I am pleased to submit, with the full support of the Government of Greece, the candidature of Mr. Efthimios E. Mitropoulos whose curriculum vitae, highlighting his professional background and experience, is enclosed, herewith.

Greece has been one of IMO's founding Members and has always played a positive and constructive role in the Organization's endeavours to achieve its objectives of maritime safety and environmental protection, and is determined to contribute consistently to enhancing maritime security worldwide, in accordance with the recently adopted IMO rules and regulations. The nomination of Mr. Mitropoulos, Director of IMO's Maritime Safety Division since 1992 and Assistant Secretary – General since 2000, demonstrates Greece's strong commitment to the aims and afore-mentioned objectives of the Organization, as well as her commitment to the leadership role IMO should continue to play in regulating international maritime affairs and promoting technical co-operation in the maritime field.

From his enclosed CV, it becomes evident that, apart from his deep maritime roots, Mr. Mitropoulos has strong credentials on wide – ranging shipping activities as he displays a rare combination of experience and skills as a seafarer, coast guard officer and maritime administrator, national representative at various international maritime fora, harbour master, author and lecturer on maritime safety and shipping economics/policy subjects and, since 1979, as an international civil servant.

*Mr. William A. O'Neil  
Secretary – General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 75R  
England*

Greece offers the candidacy of Mr. Mitropoulos in the strong belief that she places, at the disposal of the maritime community as a whole, an individual of high standards of professionalism and integrity to promote, in the challenging times that lie ahead, IMO's objectives for safe, secure and efficient shipping on clean oceans.

I should be most grateful if, in accordance with the aforementioned Note Verbale and C89's decision, this letter and its attachment were circulated to all Members of the Council of the Organization.

*Your sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George A. Papandreou". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George A. Papandreou

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**E.E. Mitropoulos**  
**Assistant Secretary-General**  
**Director, Maritime Safety Division**  
**International Maritime Organization**

Efthimios (Thimio) E. Mitropoulos was born in Piraeus, Greece, on 30 May 1939, to a genuinely maritime family, being the son of a merchant navy chief engineer officer father and of a mother the daughter of a shipmaster and owner of brigantines and schooners captained by his sons. The family comes from Galaxidi, a major Greek maritime centre during the tall ships' era.

After six years of secondary school studies at the 'St. Paul' French College in Piraeus, Mr. Mitropoulos graduated chief of his class with record marks in all lessons.

In 1957 he entered the Aspropyrgos Merchant Marine Academy and, in 1958, was appointed Captain of the Academy. He graduated with honours in 1959 as chief of his class.

Between 1959 and 1962, he served as apprentice, second and chief deck officer on merchant ships on voyages around the world and, in 1962, he entered the Hellenic Coast Guard Academy as chief of his class. He graduated in 1964, again as chief of his class with honours.

He then started his career as a commissioned Coast Guard Officer in Corfu, first and Piraeus, later. He retired with the rank of Rear Admiral.

In 1965 he won a scholarship to study shipping economics in Italy (Rome, Venice and Genoa) and in 1970 he was selected to study marine technology (fire protection and life-saving appliances) in the United Kingdom (Lloyd's Register of Shipping).

Between 1966 and 1977 he participated, initially as a member and later as Head of the Greek Delegation, in the work of various Sub-Committees and the Maritime Safety Committee of IMO (which he served also as vice-chairman and chairman of working groups). He also participated in the work of Council and the Assembly as well as at the 1972 Collision Regulations and 1974 Safety of Life at Sea Conferences convened by IMO, where he was elected first Vice-Chairman of the Technical Committee of both. He attended the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1975-1977) as the representative of the Greek Ministry of Mercantile Marine at the multi-ministerial Greek delegation.

During his service with the Greek Maritime Administration, he participated at meetings of ILO, UNCTAD, OECD and the Consultative Shipping Group, while his association with IMO goes back to 1965 when he first represented Greece at the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Fire Protection in December of that year.

Between 1972 and 1976, he regularly lectured at the Hellenic Coast Guard Academy and the Greek Master Mariners' Centre of Superior Studies on shipping economics and policy and maritime safety/safety of navigation subjects, respectively.

Between 1977 and 1979 he was Harbour Master of Corfu, with responsibility for the sea area surrounding Corfu and all the nearby Greek islands from the safety, security and environmental protection points of view.

Author of several books on shipping economics and policy, categories/types of merchant vessels, safety of navigation and other shipping-related matters (see attachment). His book on "Tankers: Evolution and technical issues" won first prize at a panhellenic competition to mark the Year of Shipping, 1969.

Joined IMO in January 1979 as Implementation Officer in the Maritime Safety Division and in October 1985 was appointed Head of the Navigation Section. In 1989 he was promoted to Senior Deputy Director for Navigation and Related Matters and in May 1992 was appointed Director of the Maritime Safety Division. In that capacity, he acts as Secretary of the Maritime Safety Committee. He served as Executive Secretary of the:

- \* 1993 Torremolinos Conference, which adopted the 1993 Protocol to the 1977 Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels;
- \* 1994 SOLAS Conference, which adopted new SOLAS chapters IX (Management for the safe operation of ships), X (Safety measures for high-speed craft) and XI (Special measures to enhance maritime safety);
- \* 1995 STCW and STCW-F Conferences, which adopted amendments to the 1978 STCW Convention; and a new International Convention on standards of training, certification and watchkeeping for fishing vessel personnel, respectively;
- \* 1995 SOLAS Conference, which adopted amendments to the SOLAS Convention to enhance the safety of ro-ro passenger ships;
- \* 1997 SOLAS Conference, which adopted amendments to the SOLAS Convention to enhance the safety of bulk carriers; and
- \* 2002 SOLAS Conference on Maritime Security.

In May 2000, he was designated Assistant Secretary-General, retaining his duties as Director of the Maritime Safety Division.

Between 1989 and 1998, he led IMO's efforts to establish a global Search and Rescue (SAR) Plan through regional Conferences in Lisbon, Cape Town, Seoul, Valencia and Fremantle and a Conference in Florence to specifically consider SAR matters pertaining to Africa.

Lectures regularly at the World Maritime University on safety-related matters.

His interests include swimming and diving, fishing, football, classical music and reading, in particular naval history.

Mr. Mitropoulos is married and has one son and one daughter.

#### **Honours and memberships**

Mr. Mitropoulos has been honoured with:

- \* Military Valour and Phoenix Order medals of the Hellenic Republic
- \* Commendatore, Order of Merit of the Italian Republic
- \* St. Marcus Cross, Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa
- \* Doctor Honoris Causa, Nicola Vaptsarov Naval Academy, Varna, Bulgaria.

He is:

- \* Honorary Member of the Hellenic Institute of Marine Technology and the Shipmasters' Union of Greece
- \* Fellow, Royal Institute of Navigation
- \* Honorary Fellow, Nautical Institute
- \* Governor, Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- \* Member, Royal Automobile Club.

**Books written by E.E. Mitropoulos**

- 1) Tankers: Evolution and technical issues (Piraeus, 1969 - Pages 150)
  - 2) Studies in Shipping Economics (Piraeus, 1970 - Pages 240)
  - 3) Safety of Navigation (Piraeus, 1971 - Pages 430)
  - 4) Categories and Types of Merchant Ships (Piraeus, 1973 - Pages 520)
  - 5) Collision Avoidance at Sea (Piraeus, 1975 - Pages 300)
  - 6) Separation of Traffic at Sea (Piraeus, 1976 - Pages 160)
  - 7) Shipping Economics and Policy (Piraeus, 1981 - Pages 378)
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