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COUNCIL  
89th session  
Agenda item 26

C 89/26  
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## RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Note by the Secretary-General

#### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** This document reports on the status of the application for consultative status from the International Marine Transit Association/Interferry (IMTA/Interferry). It also reports on communications from Turkey and Greece regarding Greenpeace International and on press reports regarding Greenpeace International in the Tasman Sea for the attention of the Council.

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 8

**Related documents:** C 88/24/Add.1, C 88/WP.1, C 88/D, C/ES.21/D, paragraphs 21(b).2 and 21(b).3

#### International Marine Transit Association/Interferry (IMTA/Interferry)

1 At its eighty-eighth session, the Council considered the application from the International Marine Transit Association/Interferry (IMTA/Interferry). In the light of the advice of its small group the Council decided to refer the application to the MSC and the MEPC for advice and to draw the attention of those committees to the information contained in the report of its small group (see document C 88/WP.1, paragraph 6).

2 The 48th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) will meet from 7 to 11 October 2002. When available, its advice will be brought to the attention of the Council in an addendum to this document. However, the 76th session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) will only meet after the eighty-ninth session of the Council. Its advice will, therefore, be reported to the 90th session of the Council in June 2003. The Council will then be in a position to take a decision on the application for consultative status from IMTA/Interferry.

#### Matters arising under Council decision C/ES.21/D, paragraph 21(b).3

3 At its twenty-first extraordinary session in November 2001, under the scope of its review of organizations in consultative status, the Council noted the letter of 25 July 2001 from Greenpeace International, reaffirming and reinforcing the commitment it made at the seventeenth session of the Assembly to comply with the international regulations concerning collisions at sea (see C/ES.21/D, paragraph 21(b).2). The Council decided at that time that the activities of Greenpeace International should be monitored and reviewed at the next periodic review under

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Rule 10 of the Rules Governing Relationship with Non-Governmental International Organizations (see C/ES.21/D, paragraph 21(b).3).

4 Since then, the Secretary-General has received:

- .1 a communication dated 11 July 2002 from the Turkish Embassy in London transmitting a copy of a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey; and
- .2 a communication dated 26 July 2002 from the Embassy of Greece in London,

both referring to the boarding and occupation, by Greenpeace activists, of the Greek oil tanker **Crude Dio** outside the Turkish territorial sea off the northern entrance to the Strait of Istanbul on 4 July 2002.

5 The Turkish Foreign Affairs Ministry communication concludes by stating that “such acts against the freedom of navigation will not be tolerated by the Turkish Government and the perpetrators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law”, while the Greek Embassy communication states that “Greece strongly protests against the illegal acts of Greenpeace members during the incident, which jeopardized the safety of the vessel and resulted in a serious delay to the vessel’s voyage”.

6 The incident reported by Turkey, as the coastal State and Greece as the flag State is, therefore, brought to the attention of the Council in the context of the decision referred to in paragraph 3 above to monitor and review the activities of Greenpeace International.

7 The Secretary-General has also written to Greenpeace International drawing its attention to the above communications from Turkey and Greece as well as to press reports regarding an incident involving two BNFL ships in the Tasman Sea and inviting its comments to enable him to report, if possible, to the present session of the Council. The comments of Greenpeace International will be reported to the Council in an addendum to this document.

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

8 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to comment or decide as it may deem appropriate.

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