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Agenda item 17(e)

C 114/17(e)
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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(e) World Maritime Day

Consideration of offers to host the World Maritime Day Parallel Event

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document proposes a process for the consideration of offers from Member States to host the World Maritime Day Parallel Event
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	11.1
<i>High-level action:</i>	11.1.1
<i>Planned output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 8
<i>Related documents:</i>	C 94/17(e), C 94/D, paragraphs 17(e).1 to 17(e).5 and C 113/D, paragraph 12(f).6

Background

1 The Council, at its thirty-eighth session (June 1977), agreed to establish World Maritime Day to provide a common opportunity for Member Governments, the Secretariat and organizations in official relationship with IMO to give suitable publicity to the Organization and its work by bringing to the attention of the public in the Member States important aspects of the work of the Organization.

2 The Council, at its ninety-fourth session (June 2005), also agreed that, in order to revitalize the Day and further its scope and purposes, an event be held elsewhere in the world, in parallel with the celebration of World Maritime Day at IMO Headquarters, thus stimulating interest in a larger audience than the London-based maritime and shipping community and, hence, promoting the wider benefits of shipping in another country or region.

3 The inaugural parallel event was successfully celebrated in 2005 and, thereafter, has been held annually by a different IMO Member State, becoming a popular feature on the IMO calendar. As of today, Japan will host the parallel event in 2015, Turkey in 2016, Panama in 2017, Poland in 2018 and Colombia in 2019.

Consideration of offers from Member States to host the event

4 The number of Member States willing to host the event in the coming years is increasing. It is, therefore, proposed to establish a process for the consideration of offers.

5 In this connection, offers should be in the form of a letter issued either by the Head of State or the Head of Government or a Minister (Foreign Affairs, Transport, etc.) and be addressed to the Secretary-General. As per the current practice, they will be considered on a "first come, first served" basis but will not be accepted more than four years in advance. Prior to making a formal offer, Member States should, therefore, ascertain that the next four years have not already been allocated.

6 Once the Secretary-General is satisfied that the above conditions have been met, the offer from only one Member State to host the parallel event in a particular year will be submitted to the Council for approval.

7 The Council may recall that, at its 113th session, offers to host the parallel events in 2020 and 2021 were made by the Governments of South Africa and the Islamic Republic of Iran and that it requested the transmission of their formal offers to the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General has since received the formal offer from the Islamic Republic of Iran, which will be put forward to the Council for approval at the current session. Should the Council decide to accept this offer, the next available year to host the event would, therefore, be 2021 and, based on the above, offers for that year will not be accepted until 2017.

Action requested of the Council

8 The Council is invited to consider the proposal contained in this document and to decide as it may deem appropriate.
