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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(e) Report on World Maritime Day 2016

Submitted by Turkey

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on this year's IMO's World Maritime Day parallel event held in Istanbul, Turkey
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	11
<i>High-level action:</i>	11.1.1
<i>Output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 15
<i>Related document:</i>	C 117/15(e)

IMO's World Maritime Day parallel event in Istanbul, Turkey

1 Turkey had the privilege and honour to host the 2016 World Maritime Day parallel event in Istanbul from 4 to 6 November 2016.

2 The event, focusing on this year's theme "Shipping: indispensable to the world", was jointly organized by IMO and the Republic of Turkey through the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications. It was attended by 1,028 participants from around the world, including high-level representatives from IMO Member States, diplomatic corps in Turkey, academia, as well as interested parties from the local maritime industry.

3 On the first day, 4 November 2016, at the opening ceremony of the World Maritime Day parallel event, H.E. Mr. Binali Yildirim, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Ahmet Arslan, Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications, H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim, IMO Secretary-General and Mr. Jakob Stausholm, Chief Financial, Strategy and Transformation Officer of the Transport and Logistics division and Group CFO of A.P. Møller – Mærsk A/S welcomed all participants to the event in their remarks.

International Symposium

4 A two-day international symposium was organized on 4 and 5 November. It consisted of two panels on each day conducted by relevant moderators and featuring prominent international speakers. A question and answer session open to participants was also held at the conclusion of each panel.

5 The first panel on day one addressed the topic "Turkish Maritime Heritage" and was moderated by Mr. Metin Ataç, Admiral (Rtd.), President, International Association of Maritime Studies. This panel focused on the foundation of the Turkish Maritime History and its evolution towards Turkish Maritime Technologies. It featured the following speakers:

- .1 Professor Dr. İdris Bostan, Istanbul University;
- .2 Associate Prof. Dr. Maria Pia Pedani, Ca' Foscari University;
- .3 Professor Dr. Tuncay Zorlu, Istanbul Technical University; and
- .4 Professor Dr. Kaori Komatsu, Waseda University.

6 The second panel, on the topic "Why is the sea indispensable to human life?", was moderated by Mr. Suat Hayri Aka, Captain, Undersecretary, Ministry of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications. This panel raised several important subjects such as the ocean's resources in connection with the population growth; the role of the sea in civilization and its impact on the development of culture and tourism; the importance of clean seas for humanity; job opportunities in the maritime sector and educational needs; and, finally, the essential role of maritime media to reach a wider audience. It featured the following speakers:

- .1 Mr. Johan H. Williams, Specialist Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Norway;
- .2 Mr. Charles Bud Darr, Senior Vice President, Cruise Lines International Association;
- .3 H.E. Mr. Arsenio Domínguez, Chair of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Panama to IMO;
- .4 Dr. Cleopatra Dombia-Henry, President, World Maritime University; and
- .5 Mr. Richard Clayton, Chief Correspondent, IHS Maritime and Trade.

7 On the second day of the event, the first panel addressed the topic "Maritime Risks and Crisis Management" and was moderated by Mr. Metin Kalkavan, President, Istanbul and Marmara, Aegean, Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions Chamber of Shipping. This panel assessed different kinds of risks to the maritime business, offered key factors on maritime safety and brought attention to irregular migration and search and rescue (SAR) operations. It featured the following speakers:

- .1 Mr. Lucien Arkas, Chairman, Arkas Holding;
- .2 Dr. Ralf Sören Marquardt, Community of European Shipyards' Associations;

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- .3 Mr. Brad Groves, Chairman of the IMO Maritime Safety Committee and General Manager, Navigation Safety and International Relations, Australian Maritime Safety Authority; and
 - .4 Rear Admiral (LH) Bülent Olcay, Commandant, Turkish Coast Guard Command.

8 The final panel, on "Fair Competition in the World Maritime Industry", was moderated by Professor Dr. Oral Erdoğan, Rector, Piri Reis University. This panel considered diverse subjects such as globalization in shipbuilding; cooperation among ports; regulatory bodies and implementation; and opportunities and challenges in the maritime business. It featured the following speakers:

- .1 Professor Seigo Hashimoto, Piri Reis University;
- .2 Dr. Keo-Don Oh, President, Tongmyong University, and former Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea;
- .3 Mr. Frederick J. Kenney, Director, Legal Affairs and External Relations Division, IMO; and
- .4 Professor Dr. Ilias Visvikis, World Maritime University.

Closing ceremony

9 At the closing ceremony, H.E. Mr. Abdurrahman Bilgiç, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkey in London and Permanent Representative to IMO, H.E. Mr. Ahmet Arslan and H.E. Mr. Kitack Lim highlighted the fruitful outcome of the event and expressed their sincere appreciation to all participants and speakers.

10 The parallel event closed with a ceremony, marking the passing of the World Maritime Day parallel event flag from Turkey to Panama, which will host the event next year. H.E. Mr. Ahmet Arslan handed over the flag to H.E. Mr. Jorge Barakat Pitty, Minister of Maritime Affairs of Panama. In his speech, he congratulated Turkey on a successful event and called for widespread participation in Panama in 2017.

Hospitality and visit programme

11 Upon arrival on Thursday evening, 3 November, Member States' delegates as well as their guests were invited to a welcome reception and, on the evening of 4 November, a gala dinner was hosted by the Minister of Transport, Maritime Affairs and Communications of Turkey. After the closing ceremony, on 5 November, delegates were invited to a reception hosted by the Minister of Maritime Affairs of Panama.

12 On Sunday, 6 November, a cultural programme was offered to the participants, who visited the "Istanbul Naval Museum" and the "Rahmi Koç Museum", where a farewell lunch took place.

Conclusion

13 Turkey's privilege and honour to host the 2016 World Maritime Day parallel event were amplified by the wide participation of delegations and speakers, who enriched the event and contributed to the success of the celebrations.

14 Special thanks are due to the IMO Secretary-General, staff members and all distinguished delegates for their participation in the parallel event.

Action requested of the Council

15 The Council is invited to note the information provided in this document.
