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COUNCIL
24th extraordinary session
Agenda item 12(b)

C/ES.24/12(b)/Add.1
26 September 2007
Original: ENGLISH and SPANISH

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(b) Relations with non-governmental organizations

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on a request from the Latin American Shipowners' Association (LASA), to withdraw its consultative status with IMO

Action to be taken: Paragraph 4

Related documents: C 94/17(d)/1, C 94/D; C/ES.23/14(c)/1; A 24/SR.10 and resolution A.966(24)

1 The Council may recall its request to the Secretary-General, at its ninety-fourth session (July 2005), based on the poor attendance record of the Latin American Shipowners' Association (LASA), to remind the Association of its obligations in accordance with the Guidelines on the Grant of Consultative Status, and the subsequent report submitted by LASA, which ultimately led to the Council's decision, at its twenty-third extraordinary session, to maintain LASA's consultative status. The Assembly, at its twenty-fourth regular session, endorsed the Council's decision.

2 In a letter dated 31 August 2007 and attached at annex, the President of LASA has informed the Secretary-General of LASA's decision to withdraw its consultative status with IMO, for the reasons stated therein.

3 The Council's attention is drawn to LASA's request, in the penultimate paragraph of its letter, to retain, if possible, its privileged access to IMO documents, which would enable it to remain up to date and well-informed of IMO's activities.

Action requested of the Council

4 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to decide on the request of LASA. In the light of the Council's decision, the Assembly will be advised at its twenty-fifth regular session.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

ANNEX**Translation**

Letter from the Latin American Shipowners' Association dated 31 August 2007, addressed to the Secretary-General

Ref. No. ALAMAR 01/2007

Dear Sir,

As you know, the Latin American Shipowners' Association (LASA) is a non-governmental organization which has been in consultative status at IMO since 1971.

This recognition has enabled LASA to attend certain IMO meetings, receive documents and enjoy privileged access to documents submitted to and produced by various IMO working bodies.

Our organization has always attached particular importance to that status, as expressed to you in a number of previous written communications.

As mentioned in our letter of 13 September 2005 (Ref.No. ALAMAR 02/2005), LASA was founded in 1963 and was based in Montevideo, Uruguay, until 1994. Its headquarters were then transferred to Chile, where the Chilean National Shipowners' Association took over the functions of the LASA secretariat.

During the 1990s many of the region's shipping operators ceased to function, with the result that LASA reduced its activities and attendance at international organizations and maintained only an advisory service for the shipowners that remained active in its region.

The ninety-fourth session of the IMO Council, held from 20 to 24 June 2005, carried out the most recent biennial review of the organizations in consultative status with IMO, in accordance with rule 10 of its "Rules Governing Relationship with International Non-governmental Organizations".

The Council noted on that occasion that LASA's attendance at IMO activities was poor, and requested it to submit a report which ultimately led to the decision by the twenty-fourth session of the Assembly to maintain LASA's consultative status (resolution A.966(24) of 23 November 2005).

Having regard to all these factors, LASA has now decided to request permission to withdraw voluntarily from its current position as NGO in consultative status with IMO. I should be grateful if you would kindly ensure that this situation is considered by the appropriate bodies.

While LASA regrets this situation, the shipowners of its region will be able to maintain links with IMO through the national authorities of the relevant Member States, and also through the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Shipping Federation (ISF), whose membership includes Latin American shipowners' associations.

If possible, LASA would prefer to retain its privileged access to IMO documentation, which would enable it to remain up to date and well informed.

Finally, I should like to thank you and the IMO Secretariat for the constant support and cooperation you have provided for LASA, enabling it to keep abreast of developments in an organization which enjoys international prestige, and to which Latin American shipowners attach special importance and esteem.

Yours sincerely

Eugenio Valenzuela Carvallo

President
