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'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

No. Cion doc.: 9662/21
No. prev. doc.: 9675/1/21 REV 1

Subject: Draft submission by Member States and the Commission to the 77th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of the International Maritime Organization on aspects and proposals to consider the development of a data transfer mechanism for the Port Reception Facilities module of the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS)
– *Endorsement*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 8 June 2021, the Commission transmitted to the Council a Staff Working Document containing a draft submission to the 77th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 77) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on aspects and proposals to consider for the development of a data transfer mechanism for the Port Reception Facilities module of the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS). The deadline for transmitting the draft submission to the IMO Secretariat is 17 September 2021.

2. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) requires Parties to MARPOL to communicate to IMO a list of port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships. This should include their location, capacity and available facilities and other characteristics. Such information is reported manually by designated national contact points through the Port Reception Facilities Database (PRFD) within GISIS.
3. The purpose of the submission is to invite MEPC 77 to consider the development of a data transfer mechanism. The objective would be to facilitate the transfer and updating of information into the PRFD of GISIS directly from national/regional databases, such as the Union Maritime Information and Exchange System ('SafeSeaNet'), which are updated locally. The relevant information available in such national/regional databases provided by State Parties would be transferred automatically from those databases into the Port Reception Facilities module of GISIS, via a 'push' or equivalent mechanism. This would improve the accuracy of the information and reduce the administrative burden of the parties to MARPOL. It is proposed that the implementation of such a mechanism should be optional and that it should coexist with the existing manual updating process. Moreover, such a mechanism should not affect the responsibility and reporting obligations of each State Party under MARPOL.

II. WORK WITHIN THE COUNCIL

4. The draft submission was presented by the Commission at an informal videoconference of the members of the Shipping Working Party on 7 June 2021, based on an advance copy. The submission was further examined at two subsequent meetings of the members of the working party on 14 June and 2 July 2021. At that last meeting, consensus was reached on the substance of the draft submission. It was also agreed that the Presidency would be allowed to indicate at the time of transmission that the document may be released to the public by the IMO secretariat prior to MEPC 77.
5. However, there is no agreement on who should submit the draft submission. The Commission maintains the view that the draft submission should be made by "the European Commission on behalf of the European Union", while the Member States consider that it should be made by the Member States and the European Commission.

6. Given the importance of the matter, it was agreed at working party level to propose to transmit the submission in the name of the Member States and the European Commission, while taking good note of the position of the Commission.

III. CONCLUSION

7. In the light of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to endorse the text of the draft submission in the annex, with a view to its transmission by the Presidency to the International Maritime Organization by 17 September 2021.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
77th session
Agenda item 13

MEPC 77/13/X
X X 2021
Original: ENGLISH
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Communication of information through the Port Reception Facilities Module of GISIS

Submitted by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the European Commission

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document invites the Committee to consider the development of a data transfer mechanism for the Port Reception Facilities module of the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS).

Strategic direction, if applicable: 7

Output: 7.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: MEPC.1/Circ.834/Rev.1 and Circular letter No.2683

1 Pursuant to Article 11 (1) (d) of the MARPOL Convention and MEPC.1/Circ.834/Rev.1, Parties to the Convention are required to communicate to the Organization a list of reception facilities including their location, capacity and available facilities and other characteristics. The information is reported manually by designated national points of contact through Port Reception Facilities Database (PRFD) within IMO's Global Integrated Ship Information System (GISIS)¹.

2 The Port Reception Facilities module of GISIS relies on up-to-date information being provided by port States. Port State authorities are encouraged to regularly seek accurate and up-to-date information from reception facility operators and port authorities and to maintain entries on the PRFD. Reception facility operators and port authorities should also be proactive in communicating updated information to port State authorities. This two-way communication facilitates the dissemination of PRF information to the shipping industry.

¹ <https://gisis.imo.org/>

3 The European Union pursues the implementation of parts of the MARPOL Convention through Directive (EU) 2019/883 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships². In Article 13(3), the information from the waste reception and handling plan on the availability of adequate port reception facilities (listed in Article 5 (2)) is to be made electronically available through the Union Maritime Information and Exchange System ('SafeSeaNet'). The purpose is to allow further processing by the inspection database (THETIS-EU PRF module) and to ensure that the PRF information available to the shipping industry in GISIS is kept up-to-date.

4 The Organization has previously agreed to establish similar data transfer arrangements for various GISIS modules. For example, reports of investigation into casualties recorded in the European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP) also feed the GISIS Marine Casualties and Incidents (MCI) module and agreements concluded with regional port State control regimes enable data from those external systems to flow into the GISIS Port State Control (PSC) module. In addition, the Maritime Safety Committee has approved MSC.1/Circ.1603 on *Guidance for the electronic transfer of information into and from the maritime security module of GISIS*.

5 The development of a similar data transfer mechanism for the lists of port reception facilities and their related details is recommended. The objective would be to facilitate the transfer and updating of such information into the Port Reception Facilities module of GISIS directly from national/regional databases, such as SafeSeaNet, which are updated locally. The relevant information available in such national/regional databases provided by State Parties would be transferred automatically from those databases into the Port Reception Facilities module of GISIS, via a 'push' or equivalent mechanism. This would improve the accuracy of the information and reduce the administrative burden of the parties to MARPOL. It is proposed that the implementation of such a mechanism should be optional and that it should coexist with the existing manual updating process. Moreover, such a mechanism should not affect the responsibility and reporting obligations of each State Party under MARPOL.

6 In addition, the inclusion of the possibility for bulk data retrieval methods in the data transfer mechanism would allow for the information from the Port Reception Facilities module of GISIS to be re-used by national/regional systems. This will allow Member States to, for example, assess if a ship may proceed to the next port of call without delivering all waste on board based on the confirmation of adequate port reception facilities available at the next port of call.

Action requested of the Committee

7 The Committee is invited to consider the development of a data transfer mechanism, into and from the Port Reception Facilities module of GISIS and, if agreed, to request the Secretariat to develop and implement the mechanism.

² Directive (EU) 2019/883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, amending Directive 2010/65/EU and repealing Directive 2000/59/EC (EU OJ L 151, 7.6.2019, p. 116).