

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC)
67th SESSION
13 – 17 October 2014**

Agenda Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda (MEPC 67/1) and agreed to be guided by the provisional timetable (MEPC 67/1/1, annex 2, as revised), on the understanding that it was subject to adjustments depending on the progress made each day.

The agenda, as adopted, with a list of documents considered under each agenda item, is set out in document MEPC 67/INF.34.

Agenda Item 2 Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water

Whilst it is appreciated that there may be issues with ballast water technology, to date no substantial evidence has been put forward to define the scale and scope of the problem. Until such evidence is presented a number of delegates did not feel it is appropriate to review the associated guidelines.

Nevertheless MEPC endorsed a plan of action for a point by point review of the Guidelines for approval of ballast water management systems and to propose amendments to the existing Guidelines.

Agenda Item 3 Recycling of Ships

It was confirmed that the Intersessional Working Group had agreed on the threshold values for hazardous material and were now exploring the footnotes. It was acknowledged that the threshold level for asbestos was still being raised as an issue despite being considered as settled during previous discussions.

Concerns were also raised over the validity of asbestos-free labelling on parts produced in China.

Agenda Item 4 Air Pollution and Energy Efficiency

There is little of significance for ISAF under this agenda item although there are impacts for the super yacht industry by way of Tier III NOx emissions.

Otherwise this agenda item considered the implementation of MARPOL VI and new technology for energy efficiency and reduction in air pollution.

Agenda Item 5 Further technical and operational measures for enhancing energy efficiency of international shipping

MEPC 66 established a Correspondence Group on Further Technical and Operational Measures for Enhancing Energy Efficiency of International Shipping and instructed it to consider the development of a data collection system for fuel consumption of ships in order to estimate CO₂ emissions.

There was considerable discussion during this session. As a result the correspondence group will continue its work on a data collection system

for fuel consumption that can be readily used for voluntary or mandatory application of the system; and it will submit a written report to MEPC 68.

Agenda Item 6

Reduction of GHG emissions from ships

The results of the GHG update study were noted and the project was on track.

In discussion, the majority of delegations that spoke supported the report and the findings of the Study and were of the view that the Study had fully met the terms of reference and that, while the task had been very complex, it provided a valuable and useful update of the Second IMO GHG Study 2009; was transparent, efficient and professional; and provided a sound basis for the future work of the Committee to address GHG emissions from international shipping.

Other delegations expressed the view that the Study report was bulky and complex due to the number of topics it covered and therefore difficult to review; that it lacked transparency with regard to the methods, calculations and data employed; that findings in the report were not supported by scientific evidence; and that, as such, the terms of reference had not been met.

Having considered the findings of the Study, the Steering Committee noted that the steering committee had completed its work on the Study, approved it as the Third IMO GHG Study 2014 and requested the Secretariat to publish and disseminate it.

Agenda Item 7

Consideration and adoption of amendments to mandatory instruments

This agenda item is of little interest to ISAF and mainly concerned amendments to MARPOL annexes that do not affect small craft

Agenda Item 8

Review of nitrogen and phosphorous removal standards in the 2012 Guidelines on the implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants

MEPC 64 adopted the *2012 Guidelines on the implementation of effluent standards and performance tests for sewage treatment plants* (resolution MEPC.227 (64)), and had decided that a review of the nitrogen and phosphorus removal standards should be undertaken by MEPC 67, in order to determine whether the required removal standards for nitrogen and phosphorus are met by type-approved sewage treatment plants, or such systems in development in accordance with section 5 of the guidelines.

CLIA argued that the number of sewage treatment plants type approved to the removal standards is presently inadequate to meet industry needs and proposing amendments to the guidelines, adopting a less strict removal standard and later applicability dates, to allow time for sewage treatment plants to be type approved to the revised standard.

In the ensuing discussion, some delegations expressed their support for the proposal by CLIA arguing that the available information on sewage treatment plants type approved to the removal standards was not sufficient

to instil confidence in the industry.

However, the majority of delegations spoke in favour of retaining the current standards, referring to the impact on the marine environment of nitrogen and phosphorus contained in treated sewage discharges and suggesting that manufacturers were able to develop a sufficient number of sewage treatment plants type approved to the removal standards before the effective date of the Baltic Sea special area.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the nitrogen and phosphorus removal standards in the guidelines should not be amended.

This is of interest as the treatment and discharge prevention of sewage from small craft is now included in the RCD.

Agenda Item 9

Mandatory Code for ships operating in polar waters

MEPC 67 approved the Preamble, Introduction and Part II of the draft International Code for ships operating in polar waters with a view to adoption at MEPC 68.

MEPC 67 approved the associated draft amendments to MARPOL Annexes I, II, IV and V and requested the Secretary-General to circulate them in accordance with Article 16 of MARPOL, with a view to adoption at MEPC 68, in conjunction with the adoption of the relevant parts of the Polar Code.

MEPC 67 authorized the Secretariat, when preparing the text of the draft Polar Code, to effect any editorial corrections that may be identified, as appropriate, including updating references to renumbered paragraphs, and to bring to the attention of the Committee any errors or omissions.

Agenda Item 10	Identification and protection of special areas and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs)
	The Committee, due to time constraints, agreed to defer consideration of this agenda item to MEPC 68.

Agenda Item 11	Inadequacy of reception facilities
	The Committee, due to time constraints, agreed to defer consideration of this agenda item to MEPC 68.

Agenda Item 12

Report of Sub-Committees

MEPC 67 received reports from:

- Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) on the final version of the draft *Guidance on the safe operation of oil pollution combating equipment*;
- Sub-Committee on Ship Systems and Equipment (SSE) concerning Draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I;
- Sub-Committee on Implementation of IMO Instruments (III)

There is nothing of interest in these for ISAF.

Agenda Item 13	Work of other bodies
	MEPC 67 received reports from other IMO committees. There is nothing of interest in these for ISAF

Agenda Item 14	Promotion of Implementation and Enforcement of MARPOL and Related Instruments
	The Committee, due to time constraints, agreed to defer consideration of this agenda item to MEPC 68.

Agenda Item 15	Technical cooperation activities for the protection of the marine environment
	The Chairman recalled that the constituent programmes of the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) could only be delivered if the required funding is secured from internal resources and/or external donor contributions. He expressed his appreciation for all the financial and in-kind contributions to the ITCP and major projects and invited Member States and international organizations to continue and, if possible, increase their support for IMO's technical cooperation activities so that successful delivery of the programme could be achieved.

Agenda Item 16	Work programme of the Committee and subsidiary bodies
	16/1: The UK does not object to the case set out in this paper for the specific bio-fuel detailed in this paper to be classified under MARPOL Annex I, however, we would not be prepared for any further expansion to other bio-fuels at this stage.

Agenda Item 17	Application of the Committees' Guidelines
	The Secretariat has taken action to highlight documents containing proposed amendments to mandatory IMO instruments in IMODOCS. MEPC 67 approved <i>Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies</i> and requested the Secretariat to affect any editorial changes that may be identified.

Agenda Item 18	Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2015
	MEPC 67, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, unanimously re-elected Mr. Arsenio Dominguez (Panama) as Chairman and Dr. Naomi Parker (New Zealand) as Vice-Chairman, both for 2015.

Agenda Item 19	Any Other Business
	The Committee, due to time constraints, agreed to defer consideration of this agenda item to MEPC 68.