MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING LEMESOS

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25 August 2004

To all Owners and Representatives Of Ships flying the Cyprus flag.

Subject: Pilotage service when navigating through the entrances to the Baltic Sea

I refer to the above subject and wish to advise you that the Danish Government, in order to prevent any accident occurring in this ecologically sensitive area, requests all Governments to ensure the use of the Pilotage service when their ships are navigating through the entrances of the Baltic Sea.

Furthermore the IMO Resolution MSC.138 (76) recommends that ships over 40,000 tonnes deadweight, or ships with a draught of 11 metres or more and ships irrespective of size or draught carrying a shipment of Irradiated Nuclear Fuel, Plutonium and High Level Radioactive Wastes (INF-cargoes) when passing through the entrances to the Baltic Sea, should use the pilotage services established by the coastal states and follow the recommendation referred to in the Resolution MSC.138 (76).

Although the use of pilotage is a recommendation, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, which is committed to its policy for the protection of the environment, urges the owners and the managers of Cyprus Flag ships to conform to the recommendation for the use of pilotage in these areas.

Any notification of the Government of Denmark or other Baltic States reporting Cyprus ships for not using the Pilotage services, will be treated by the Department of Merchant Shipping as a contravention of Regulation V/10 of SOLAS 74 as amended (amendments 2000), ratified by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus by Law 10(III) of 2001, and as a total disregard of our policy for the protection of the environment.

S.S.Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

C.C. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping Diplomatic and Consular Missions of the Republic Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic Cyprus Bar Association Cyprus Shipping Association (Sea Rovers) Ltd Cyprus Shipping council Union of Cypriot Shipowners