



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
DEPARTMENT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING
LEMESOS

Circular No. 25/2004

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TEN 12.3.01.2

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To all Owners, Managers
and Representatives
of Ships under the Cyprus Flag

26 May 2004

Subject: Implementation of EU harmonising Legislation : The Merchant Shipping (Masters and Seamen) Laws 1963-2004 (Law 46/63 as amended)/ 2002 Amendments/ Abolition of the Merchant Shipping (Crew) (Minimum Percentage of Citizens of the Republic) Regulations of 1969 (P.I.No. 661/69)

1. I wish to inform you that the House of Representatives has enacted *the Merchant Shipping (Masters and Seamen) (Amendment) Law of 2002 (Law 101(I)/2002* (published in Greek, in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Cyprus, no 3619, Supplement I(I) dated 05.07.2002) which , by virtue of its section 4 , entered into force on 1st May 2004.

2. Section 3 of *Law 101(I)/2002* provided for the abolition , as from 1st May 2004 , of *the Merchant Shipping (Crew) (Minimum Percentage of Citizens of the Republic) Regulations of 1969 (P.I.No. 661/69)*.

It is recalled in this respect, that P.I. No. 661/69 required that the minimum number of citizens of the Republic to be included in the crew of every Cyprus ship should be such that it would comprise 15% of the total number of crew.

3. The above amendment -abolition became necessary in order honour the commitment undertaken by the Republic of Cyprus during the accession negotiations with the EU to align its legislation with the Treaty provisions on the *free movement of workers* (article 48 of the EC Treaty ; European Court of Justice relevant case-law).

Serghios S. Serghiou
Director
Department of Merchant Shipping

- cc. – Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works
- Attorney General of the Republic
 - Permanent Secretary, Planning Bureau
 - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - Maritime Offices of the Department of Merchant Shipping abroad
 - Diplomatic Missions and Honorary Consular Officers of the Republic
 - Association of Cypriot Shipowners (Searovers) Ltd
 - Cyprus Shipping Council
 - Union of Cypriot Shipowners
 - Cyprus Bar Association
 - PEO Trade Union
 - SEK Trade Union