



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

SHIPPING DEPUTY MINISTRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Circular No. 17/2019

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SDM File No. 5.13.09 & 4.3.02.3

To all Registered owners, Registered bareboat charterers
Managers and Representatives of ships flying the Cyprus Flag

Subject: Measures to mitigate the risk of drug smuggling- Exercise vigilance during cargo loading- IMO Revised Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals on ships engaged in international maritime traffic

I refer to the above matter and I wish to inform you as follows:

2. There have been recent incidents where drugs were smuggled on board Cyprus flagged ships during cargo loading. The Republic of Cyprus is a Contracting party to the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Ratification Law 49/1990) and is fully committed towards the principles enshrined in said Convention.

3. The Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President is concerned of the severe consequences for the crewmembers and the ship in cases where drugs and other psychotropic substances are smuggled on board. Therefore, we urge all Masters, Owners and Managers of Cyprus flagged ships to exercise vigilance, particularly during cargo loading and to implement measures to mitigate the risk of drug smuggling in accordance with the IMO Revised Guidelines for the Prevention and Suppression of the Smuggling of Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals on ships engaged in international maritime traffic. As stipulated in the IMO Revised Guidelines "*Few ports can now be considered safe from attempts to place drugs and other illicit substances on board, **although ports in producing countries remain those in which the vessel is most at risk.***" The IMO Revised Guidelines have been adopted by Resolution MSC.228(82)¹ and Resolution FAL.9(34)².

Costas Iacovou

Permanent Secretary

Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President

- Cc.** - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- Maritime Offices of the Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President abroad
- Cyprus Shipping Chamber
- Cyprus Union of Shipowners
- Cyprus Bar Association

¹ [http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/docs/FAL%20related%20nonmandatory%20instruments/MSC.228\(82\).pdf](http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Facilitation/docs/FAL%20related%20nonmandatory%20instruments/MSC.228(82).pdf)

² [http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/Guide_to_Maritime_Security/Guidance/Documents/FAL.9\(34\).pdf](http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Security/Guide_to_Maritime_Security/Guidance/Documents/FAL.9(34).pdf)

