



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE  
81st session  
Agenda item 23

MSC 81/23/25  
21 March 2006  
Original: ENGLISH

## WORK PROGRAMME

### Review of 1969 Tonnage Measurement Convention

Submitted by the Netherlands

#### SUMMARY

**Executive summary:** This document comments on the proposal by Australia (MSC 81/23/7) to initiate a new work programme item to review the 1969 TM Convention

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 8

**Related document:** MSC 81/23/7

#### Introduction

1 This document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 4.10.5 of the Guidelines on the Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies (MSC/Circ.1099 – MEPC/Circ.405) and comments on the need for a risk-benefit analysis as pointed out in document MSC 81/23/7 (Australia).

2 Australia has proposed a new work programme item for the Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety (SLF) to address the fundamental concerns with the 1969 TM Convention.

3 During SLF 48, the tonnage measurement of open-top containerships and the provisional formula of reduced gross tonnage (GT) for these ships, prescribed in TM.5/Circ.4 have been considered. In the context of this discussion, the SLF Sub-Committee identified broader issues relating to tonnage measurement which need to be addressed.

4 The Netherlands has contributed to this discussion by submitting document SLF 46/15/2 in which attention was not only drawn to the economic disadvantages linked to the present methodology for the measurement of tonnage for open-top containerships, but also to safety effects and the adverse effects on the onboard living conditions for the crew.

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5 During SLF 48, the Netherlands presented the results of a study commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works and Water Management<sup>1</sup> that elaborated on the consequences of the GT criterium in the Tonnage Measurement Convention.

### **Proposal**

6 Based on the above, the Netherlands supports the initiative to allocate a new high priority work programme item to the SLF Sub-Committee to develop broader solutions for the unintended and adverse effects of the present tonnage measurement criteria.

7 By addressing tonnage measurement constraints in a broader approach, a higher safety and comfort level of ships and more encouragement of innovative designs can be achieved and unintended adverse effects be avoided.

### **Action requested of the Committee**

8 The Committee is invited to agree a new high priority work programme item for the Sub-Committee on Stability and Load Lines and on Fishing Vessels Safety to address fundamental problems with the 1969 TM Convention. This item should be referred to the fiftieth session of the SLF Sub Committee for initial consideration and completion at SLF 51. Should recommendations involve further work at least another two sessions would be necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> “Consequences of the Gross Tonnage Measurement, a discussion document”, by Policy Research Corporation. This study was commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works and Water Management.