



MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
79th session
Agenda item 5

MSC 79/5/16
11 October 2004
Original: ENGLISH

MEASURES TO ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY

Issues arising following the introduction of SOLAS chapter XI-2 and of the ISPS Code

Submitted by the ICFTU

SUMMARY

Executive summary: The present document comments on document MSC 79/5/7 (BIMCO *et al*) in relation to issues which have arisen following the entry into force of SOLAS chapter XI-2 and of the ISPS Code

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related document: MSC 79/5/7

1 The present document comments on document MSC 79/5/7 (BIMCO *et al*) and is submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.10.5 of the Guidelines on the organization and method of work of the MSC and MEPC and their subsidiary bodies (MSC/Circ.1099-MEPC/Circ.405).

2 BIMCO *et al* in paragraph 5.1 of their submission (document MSC 79/5/7) refer to the difficulties encountered in some ports for Ship Security Officers (SSO) to familiarize themselves with the security situation on a change over day and to possible subsequent delays by the authorities.

3 This is particularly a problem where the master is also the SSO and has a multitude of other change over duties to deal with. This highlights the incongruous position the master is in when assigned these duties and reflects the concerns of many seafarers.

4 At FSI 12 and MSC 78 it was clarified that the original intention was not to prohibit the master from carrying out these duties and at all times the master was ultimately responsible for the safety and security of the ship. Whilst this clarified the original intent within the ISPS Code it did not address the concerns of many people within the industry since implementation.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

5 The ICFTU believes the matter warrants renewed discussion within the Organization to ensure this practice does not impair the ability of the master to fulfil their other duties or endanger the safety or security of those on board the ship and of the ship itself and of the cargo carried.

Action requested of the Committee

6 The Committee is invited to consider this issue and, in particular, the ongoing problems with the master carrying out the duties of the ship's security officer.
