



LEGAL COMMITTEE  
97th session  
Agenda item 5

LEG 97/5  
29 September 2010  
Original: ENGLISH

**PROVISION OF FINANCIAL SECURITY IN CASES OF ABANDONMENT, PERSONAL INJURY TO, OR DEATH OF SEAFARERS IN THE LIGHT OF THE PROGRESS TOWARDS THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE ILO MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION, 2006 AND OF THE AMENDMENTS RELATING THERETO**

**Launch of Seafarers' Rights International**

**Submitted by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)**

**SUMMARY**

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document advises the Committee of the launch of the Seafarers' Rights International Centre and outlines the expected scope of the Centre's work
<i>Strategic direction:</i>	No related provisions
<i>High-level action:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Planned output:</i>	No related provisions
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 5
<i>Related documents:</i>	None

1 On World Maritime Day 2010 (23 September 2010) at IMO Headquarters, the Secretary-General welcomed the launch of the Seafarers' Rights International, an independent centre dedicated to advancing seafarers' interests, describing it as an important development on World Maritime Day, the theme of which is "**2010: Year of the Seafarer**". During a ceremony marking the launch of the Centre, the Secretary-General stressed IMO's long-standing commitment to seafarers and considered it to be fitting that the new Centre should be launched at IMO Headquarters on a World Maritime Day exclusively dedicated to them.

2 The new Centre will be located at the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)'s London offices, with initial funding coming from the ITF's Seafarers' Trust charity. An international Advisory Board has already been established and the Centre's stakeholders will include seafarers, lawyers and other advisers, non-governmental organizations, trade unions, welfare organizations and campaigners, students and academics, shipowners and other major actors in the shipping industry, as well as Governments.

- 3 The new Centre will work in three main areas:
- .1 **research:** it will conduct legal research and analysis on subjects of importance for seafarers; monitor legal developments that affect seafarers; and develop and coordinate international networks of researchers, research bodies and universities in the fields of seafarers' rights, remedies and interests;
  - .2 **education:** it will provide education programmes on seafarers' rights, remedies and interests; and publish the results of research in order to stimulate debate on issues concerning seafarers' rights, remedies and interests; and
  - .3 **training:** it will develop and deliver legal training and consultancy programmes to meet the needs of stakeholders working for the benefit of seafarers.
- 4 Through its programme of research, education and training, the new Centre intends, *inter alia*, to:
- .1 promote research, education and training in the legal rights and remedies applicable to seafarers for the purpose of improving the effective protection of seafarers and the safeguarding of their interests;
  - .2 become a centre of excellence and to increase interest among lawyers in seafarers' rights and help them develop expertise across the range of maritime, labour and human rights laws;
  - .3 provide strategic legal support to contribute to political, industrial, campaigning and lobbying agendas towards the promotion, protection and enforcement of seafarers' rights under a just system of laws;
  - .4 raise awareness on issues of seafarers' laws, rights and remedies among policy makers, lobbyists, academics, legal practitioners and stakeholders generally in the maritime industry and beyond;
  - .5 establish seafarers' rights as a curriculum subject for students of law;
  - .6 identify current issues in the maritime industry concerning seafarers that can be developed further into outreach projects with practical outcomes for seafarers and others working to assist seafarers; and
  - .7 produce publications such as online toolkits, guidelines for lawyers, checklists for seafarers and a dedicated website.

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

- 5 The Legal Committee is invited to note the information provided in this document.
-