



LEGAL COMMITTEE
97th session
Agenda item 9

LEG 97/9/2
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PIRACY: REVIEW OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION

"End Piracy Now" Petition Presented to the Secretary-General

Submitted by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document advises the Committee of the presentation to the Secretary-General of a petition of nearly one million signatures, calling for Government to "End Piracy Now"

Strategic direction: No related provisions

High-level action: No related provisions

Planned output: No related provisions

Action to be taken: Paragraph 6

Related document: C 104/D, paragraph 15(e).1

1 On World Maritime Day 2010 (23 September 2010) at a ceremony held at IMO Headquarters, Mr. David Cockroft, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers Federation, together with co-sponsors BIMCO, International Chamber of Shipping, International Parcel Tankers Association, INTERCARGO, InterManager, International Group of P&I Clubs, INTERTANKO, International Shipping Federation, International Union of Marine Insurance, and Society of International Gas Tankers and Terminal Operators, presented the Secretary-General with a petition entitled "End Piracy Now", signed by 930,406 people from 185 countries.

2 The petition called for Governments to do everything possible to protect the thousands of seafarers and the hundreds of ships at risk of attack by pirates by:

- .1 dedicating significant resources and concerted efforts to find real solutions to the growing piracy problem;
- .2 taking immediate steps to secure the release and safe return of kidnapped seafarers to their families; and
- .3 working within the international community to secure a stable and peaceful future for Somalia and its people.

3 Following opening remarks by Mr. Cockroft, Messrs. Abdulgani Serang, General Secretary of the National Union of Seafarers of India, and Spyros Polemis, President of the International Shipping Federation, delivered addresses in support of the petition.

4 In welcoming the petition, the Secretary-General stated that the Organization shared the deep concern of seafarers, industry and the broader community with regard to piracy and the strong collective wish to see it eradicated.

5 The Secretary-General further stated that the petition would significantly support the objectives identified by IMO with regard to the World Maritime Day theme for 2011 which, in accordance with the decision of the Council at its 104th session, will be "**Piracy: orchestrating the response**". These objectives, which were reflected in the demands of the petition, are to:

- .1 increase pressure at the political level to secure the immediate release of all hostages being held by pirates – seafarers, in the main;
- .2 improve guidance to the industry and promoting full compliance by ships with all recommended preventive, evasive and defensive measures;
- .3 promote greater levels of support from navies;
- .4 promote anti-piracy coordination and co-operation between and among States, regions and organizations;
- .5 build capacity in affected States to deter, interdict and bring to justice those who commit acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships; and
- .6 provide care for those attacked or hijacked by pirates and for their families.

The choice of the theme for 2012 is intended to allow IMO not only to play its part by intensifying its efforts to meet the challenges of eliminating the scourge of piracy worldwide but, more importantly, to orchestrate the right response, among all concerned, to achieve the set objectives.

Action requested of the Legal Committee

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