

IFSMA 32nd Annual General Assembly - Resolutions

Resolution 1/2006 - CRIMINALIZATION OF SEAFARERS

On the occasion of the 32nd AGA, held on 8-9 May 2006, the delegates of IFSMA assembled in San Pedro, California, USA;

Recalled the resolution on Criminalisation of Shipmasters adopted by the 30th AGA in Buenos Aires;

Noted with satisfaction the adoption of Guidelines on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers at the IMO Legal Committee in April 2006;

Notes further with great concern that the issue of criminalization of shipmasters has not substantially improved and the tendency by Port and Coastal States to arrest and detain Masters and officers without trial following maritime incidents persists;

Therefore calls upon the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other maritime and regulatory interests to:

- Use professional sanctions not criminal sanctions to penalise negligence;
- Stop the criminalization of seafarers;
- Ensure flag States protect their seafarers and abide by UNCLOS;
- Ensure flag States carry out independent maritime accident investigations;
- Facilitate greater mandatory use of Voyage Data Recorders (VDR);
- Ensure IMO and ILO member States abide by the Fair Treatment Guidelines;
- Support the ongoing work of the Joint IMO/ILO Working Group on the Fair Treatment of Seafarers and press for a mandatory Code;
- Ensure all flag States exercise effective control and jurisdiction over ships flying their flag.

Furthermore, reaffirms IFSMA's determination to continue to campaign for shipmasters and other officers and crew to be treated with dignity and respect.

Resolution 2/2006 - E-LEARNING IN MARITIME TRAINING AND EDUCATION

On the occasion of the 32nd AGA, held on 8-9 May 2006, the delegates of IFSMA assembled in San Pedro, California, USA;

Resolved that IFSMA support the global initiative by maritime education and training providers to identify the needs of the industry with respect to the development of E-learning for seafarers and other shipping industry personnel, and to make recommendations as to standards and guidelines to ensure optimum development of such E-learning.

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Resolution 3/2006 - SHIPMASTERS IN THE FISHING INDUSTRY

The 32nd Annual General Assembly of IFSMA held on 8-9 May 2006 in San Pedro, USA;

Notes with concern the situation of Shipmasters in the Far East in the fishing industry and that worldwide approximately 24,000 crewmembers in the fishing industry die each year;

Urges IMO and ILO Member states to support improving health and safety in the fishing industry through the ratification, implementation and enforcement of the 1993 Torremolinos Protocol and application of the FAO/ILO/IMO Code of Safety for Fishermen and Fishing Vessels;

Recognises also that improved competence also contributes to the achievement of a healthy and safe working environment and therefore urges IMO member states to ratify and implement the STCW(F);

Encourages all ILO member States to support the adoption of the proposed ILO Convention on Work in the Fishing Sector due to be proposed for adoption at the International Labour Conference in June 2007;

Resolves that IFSMA should use its influence within the IMO and ILO to ensure that the working and living conditions of Shipmasters in the fishing industry and their crew are improved.

Resolution 4/2006 - MANNING AND FATIGUE CONCERNS

On the occasion of the 32nd AGA, held on 8-9 May 2006, the delegates of IFSMA assembled in San Pedro, California, USA;

Recognize that there is a lack of standardized interpretation of guidelines on manning,

Resolved, that IFSMA use its influence at IMO and ILO to introduce a mandatory code to deal with the issue of manning levels and fatigue.