

Maritime Organization (IMO) which will be held on February 5–9, 2001, at the IMO Headquarters in London.

The agenda items of particular interest are:

- Revision of Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) Circular 677.
- Matters related to the probabilistic methodology for oil outflow analysis.
- Review of Annexes I and II of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL 73/78).
- Evaluation of safety and pollution hazards of chemicals and preparation of consequential amendments.
- Amendments to requirements on electrical installations in the IMO Chemical Codes.
- Application of MARPOL requirements to floating production, storage and offloading units and floating storage units.
- Requirements for the protection of personnel involved in the transportation of cargoes containing toxic substances in all types of tankers.
- Oil tagging systems.
- Evaluation of IMO Greenhouse gas emissions study.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Commander R.F. Corbin, U.S. Coast Guard (G–MSO–3), 2100 Second Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20593–0001 or by calling (202) 267–1577.

Dated: December 19, 2000.

Stephen Miller,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3499]

Shipping Coordinating Committee, Maritime Safety Committee; Notice of Meeting

The Shipping Coordinating Committee will conduct an open meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2001, in Room 2415, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC, 20593–0001. The purpose of this meeting will be to finalize preparations for the 9th Session of the Flag State Implementation Sub-Committee, and associated bodies of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which is scheduled for February 19–23, 2001, at

IMO Headquarters in London. At this meeting, papers received and the draft U.S. positions will be discussed.

Among other things, the items of particular interest are:

- Responsibilities of Governments and measures to encourage flag State compliance;
- Self-assessment of flag State performance;
- Implications arising when a vessel loses the right to fly the flag of a State;
- Regional cooperation on port State control;
- Reporting procedures on port State control detentions and analysis and evaluation of reports;
- Mandatory reports under MARPOL 73/78;
- Introduction of the Harmonized System of Survey and Certification (HSSC) into MARPOL Annex VI on prevention of air pollution;
- Casualty statistics and investigations;
- Revision of the SOLAS expression “ships constructed”;
- Review of resolutions A.744(18) and A.746(18);
- Technical assistance;
- Use of the Spanish language in SOLAS certificates, manuals and other documents;
- Illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and related matters.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing to Lieutenant Commander Linda Fagan, Commandant (G–MOC), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Room 1116, Washington, DC 20593–0001 or by calling (202) 267–0972.

Dated: December 19, 2000.

Stephen Miller,

Executive Secretary, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS–214]

WTO Consultations Regarding U.S. Safeguard Measures on Line Pipe and Wire Rod

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice, request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on December 1, 2000, the European Communities (EC)

requested WTO consultations with the United States regarding Sections 201 and 202 of the Trade Act of 1974, section 311 of the NAFTA Implementation Act, and the U.S. safeguard measures on imports of line pipe and wire rod. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although the USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before January 15, 2001 to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Sandy McKinzy, Monitoring and Enforcement Unit, Office of the General Counsel, Room 122 Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20508, Attn: EC Line Pipe and Wire Rod Dispute. Telephone: (202) 395–3582.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David J. Ross, Associate General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC, (202) 395–3581.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, but in an effort to provide additional opportunity for comments, USTR is providing notice that consultations have been requested pursuant to the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding. If such consultations should fail to resolve the matter and a dispute settlement panel is established pursuant to the DSU, such panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the European Commission

The EC claims that sections 201 and 202 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 and 2252) contain provisions relating to the determination of a causal link between increased imports and injury or threat thereof which prevent the United States from respecting Articles 4 and 5 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards (Safeguards Agreement). It also claims that section 311 of the NAFTA Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3371) contains provisions concerning imports from Canada and Mexico which do not respect what it characterizes as