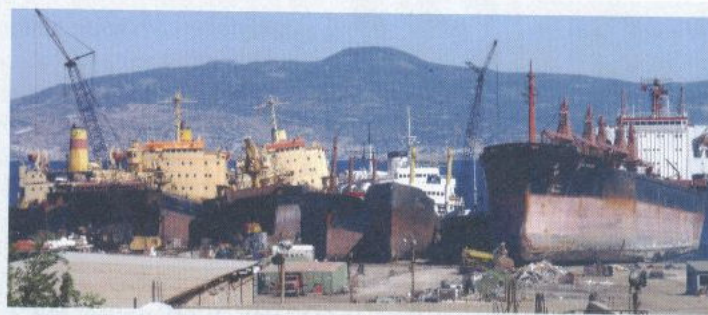


First recycler signs IMO convention

Turkey's signature lends credibility to the IMO's ship recycling convention, but much more support is needed

The IMO's ship recycling convention has been signed by Turkey, the first ship recycling nation to put its name to the international agreement. Its signature is subject to ratification but it brings to five the number of states that have signed the treaty.

Turkey's move is significant as the convention includes a unique requirement before it can enter force. As well as setting minimum numbers for states and tonnage before it can enter force – 15 states and 40% of global gross tonnage – it also requires that the combined maximum annual ship recycling volume of those states must, during the preceding 10 years, constitute not less than 3% of their combined merchant shipping tonnage. So without recycling countries on board, the



Aliaga: Turkey is the only OECD country recycling ships [photo: Selim Sam]

convention cannot enter force.

Nikos Mikelis, a senior implementation officer in the IMO's marine environment division, told *Fairplay* that Turkey ranks fifth among ship scrapping nations, with 0.6Mgt/yr of capacity, based on the convention's definitions, which rely on data supplied by IHS *Fairplay*. While a long way behind China, India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, it represents more than the rest of the world put together.

Based on current fleet data, countries representing at least 10.6Mgt of recycling capacity will have to ratify the convention

– requiring at least two of those leading four nations to join Turkey. “So, in this context, Turkey's contribution is small,” Mikelis said.

He welcomed it as showing the first formal sign of recognition by a government of a recycling state and that this is “the international convention that can regulate efficiently the recycling of ships”.

Even more notable, he pointed out, is Turkey's status as the only OECD country with a recycling industry, which makes it the only recycling country allowed under the European Waste Shipment Regulation to recycle ships

0.6Mgt

Turkey's annual recycling capacity is the fifth largest in the world

10.6Mgt

Recycling capacity required by countries ratifying the convention

dispatched from an EU country.

A statement released by His Excellency Ünal Çeviköz, Turkey's permanent representative to the IMO, and secretary-general Efthimios Mitropoulos, expressed the wish “that other major ship recycling nations join the Convention as soon as possible”.

■ The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009, has been signed by Turkey, France, Italy, the Netherlands and St Kitts & Nevis. It will enter force 24 months after conditions are met. ■

Singapore and South Korea sign co-operation MOU

Two Asian nations strengthen links to tackle safety and security

Singapore and South Korea have strengthened their co-operation in various regional and international initiatives by signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU). It was signed on 23 August by Singapore's Maritime & Port Authority (MPA) and Korea's Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs (MLTM).

In a statement, the MPA said the MOU will allow the two bodies to share maritime technical expertise through forums, workshops and seminars. Bilateral exchange programmes are planned, an MPA spokesman told *Fairplay*, to “exchange experiences in areas of common interest, such as port state control and vessel traffic services.”

The two nations have long had close ties through their involvement in international bodies such as the IMO, the Regional Coopera-

tion Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against ships in Asia (ReCAAP) and the Co-operative Mechanism for Safety of Navigation and Environmental Protection in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. But this new agreement will “further cement” those relationships.

In particular, the MOU represents “a new milestone for both sides as we seek to further enhance our co-operation in promoting safety of navigation, protection of the marine environ-

ment, and maritime and port security”, said MPA's CEO Lam Yi Young in the statement.

His Korean counterpart, MLTM's director general for maritime safety Lim Ki-Tack, emphasised the benefits the MOU will bring to their involvement in ReCAAP, saying that it provides opportunities for “co-operation against the threat of piracy in Asia as well as the promotion and enhancement of navigational safety in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore”. ■