

Turkey takes the lead on European ship recycling initiatives

From D. Ayvatoglu,

SIR, I refer to Aline De Bievre's Quarter-points article on IMO's ship recycling Convention (Lloyd's List, March 5, 2008) and particularly to the "...encouraging signs that critically important countries such as India and China are keen to sign up to the agreement".

At this point one should also mention Turkey, which provides a reliable and environmentally responsible solution to

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ship recycling. Turkey has significant ship recycling capacity, being among the top five world recycling centres. Turkey's proximity to Europe and its location in the Mediterranean and Black Sea, North of Suez canal, presents an ideal destination for recycling ships under a controlled and

internationally regulated regime. A recent report by the European Commission's Environment Directorate-General has identified that "up to 1m tdt/year safe and environmentally sound recycling capacity can be generated in Turkey".

Similar views have been expressed by

the French Inter-departmental Committee on Dismantling of ships — and other EU member countries — who stated that "thanks to [Turkey's] collaboration with Western countries, especially Germany, some yards [in Turkey] have achieved significant improvements and now meet the Western management standards".

Turkey is a country that actively participates in the drafting of IMO's convention, has developed a ship recycling industry

that meets or exceeds the proposed standards and procedures with members holding ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certification.

In this sense Turkey is also critically important particularly as is expected to be among the leading countries to enforce IMO's Ship Recycling Convention.

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On behalf of Ship Recyclers' Association of Turkey*