

**No. 23725**

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**CYPRUS  
and  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Agreement on merchant shipping. Signed at Moscow on  
12 June 1985**

*Authentic texts: Greek, Russian and English.*

*Registered by Cyprus on 31 January 1986.*

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**CHYPRE  
et  
UNION DES  
RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Accord relatif à la marine marchande. Signé à Moscou  
le 12 juin 1985**

*Textes authentiques : grec, russe et anglais.*

*Enregistré par Chypre le 31 janvier 1986.*

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS ON MERCHANT SHIPPING

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, hereinafter called the Contracting Parties,

Desiring to develop merchant shipping between the two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and to contribute to the development of international navigation on the basis of the principles of freedom of navigation, sovereign equality of States and non-interference in internal affairs,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1.* In the present Agreement:

1. The term "vessel of a Contracting Party" shall mean any vessel used for commercial or training purposes, registered in the shipping register of that Contracting Party and flying its flag. This term shall not, however, include warships.

2. The term "member of the crew" shall mean the master and any other person actually employed for duties on board during a voyage in the working or service of a vessel and included in the crew list.

*Article 2.* The Contracting Parties shall, within the limits of their respective legislation, continue their efforts to maintain and to develop effective working relationships between the authorities responsible for maritime transport in their countries. In particular, the Contracting Parties agree to carry on mutual consultations and the exchange of information through the Government Departments responsible for maritime affairs in their respective countries and to encourage the development of contacts between their respective shipping organizations and enterprises.

*Article 3.* 1. The Contracting Parties agree to follow in international shipping, to the extent possible, principles of free and fair competition and in particular:

- a) To promote participation of their vessels in sea trade between the ports of their countries;
- b) To cooperate in the elimination of any obstacles which may hamper the development of sea trade between the ports of their countries;
- c) Not to hinder the participation of the vessels of one Contracting Party in sea trade between the ports of the other Contracting Party and the ports of third countries.

2. With a view to implementing the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the shipping enterprises of both countries may operate joint liner services as well as conclude mutual agreements on technical, organizational and commercial matters.

3. The provisions of this Article shall not affect the right of the vessels of third countries to participate in sea trade between the ports of the Contracting Parties.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 November 1985, the date of the last of the notifications by which the Parties informed each other of the completion of the required legal procedures, in accordance with article 19 (1).

*Article 4.* If not otherwise provided in the present Agreement, each Contracting Party shall grant to the other Contracting Party the most favoured nation treatment in all matters concerning merchant shipping.

*Article 5.* 1. Each Contracting Party shall afford to vessels of the other Contracting Party the most favoured nation treatment in respect of free access to ports, use of ports for loading and unloading of cargoes and for embarking and disembarking passengers, payment of tonnage and other dues and taxes, exercising normal commercial operations and use of services related to navigation.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of the present Agreement, vessels belonging to or operated or chartered by an enterprise of one Contracting Party shall not enter a port of the other Contracting Party which has been closed to international shipping by the latter Party.

*Article 6.* The Contracting Parties shall adopt, within the limits of their laws and regulations, all appropriate measures in order to facilitate and expedite maritime traffic, to prevent unnecessary delays to vessels, and to expedite and simplify, as much as possible, customs procedures and other formalities applicable in ports.

*Article 7.* 1. The documents certifying the nationality of vessels of either Contracting Party, certificates of tonnage and other ship's documents issued or recognized by one of the Contracting Parties shall be recognized by the other Contracting Party.

2. The vessels of each of the Contracting Parties holding duly issued certificates of tonnage shall not be subject to re-measurement in the ports of the other Contracting Party.

*Article 8.* 1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall recognize the identity documents issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party to members of the crew who are nationals of that Contracting Party and shall grant to the holders of such documents the rights provided for in Articles 9 and 10 of the present Agreement under the conditions stipulated therein.

The identity documents are:

- In the case of the Republic of Cyprus: the Cyprus Seaman's Book and the Passport issued by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus;
- In the case of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: the USSR Seaman's Passport.

2. The provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the present Agreement shall be accordingly applied to any person who is neither a Cyprus nor a Soviet citizen but holds identity document corresponding to the provisions of either the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965, and its Annex,<sup>1</sup> or the Convention concerning Seafarers' National Identity Documents No. 108 of the International Labour Organisation.<sup>2</sup> Such identity document must be issued by a State which is party to the relevant convention and guarantee the readmission of the bearer to the country which issued the document.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 591, p. 265.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 389, p. 277.

3. The provisions of Articles 9 and 10 of the present Agreement shall apply, to the extent possible, to any person who is neither a Cyprus nor a Soviet citizen and holds an identity document other than that mentioned in paragraph 2 of this Article.

*Article 9.* 1. Holders of the seamen's identity documents specified in Article 8 of the present Agreement are permitted, in case they are members of the crew of a vessel of the Contracting Party which issued the seamen's identity documents, to stay for temporary shore leave, without visas, during the stay of the vessel in a port of the other Contracting Party, provided the master has submitted the crew list to the competent authorities in accordance with the regulations in force in that port.

2. While landing and returning to the vessel the persons mentioned are subject to frontier and customs control in force in that port.

*Article 10.* 1. Holders of the seamen's identity documents specified in Article 8 of the present Agreement are permitted as passengers of any means of transport to enter the territory of the other Contracting Party or to pass through its territory in transit whenever they are on the way to their vessel or moving to another vessel, on the way to the mother and or going for any other reason, approved by the authorities of this other Contracting Party.

2. In all cases specified in paragraph 1 of this Article the seamen must have corresponding visas of the other Contracting Party which shall be granted by the competent authorities with the shortest possible delay.

3. In case the holder of the seaman's identity document specified in Article 8 of the present Agreement is not a citizen of either Contracting Party, the visas specified in this Article for entry into or transit passage via the territory of the other Contracting Party, shall be granted, provided that return to the territory of the Contracting Party which has issued the seaman's identity document, is guaranteed to the holder.

*Article 11.* 1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 8-10 of the present Agreement, the regulations in respect of the entry, stay and departure of foreigners are kept fully in force in the territories of the Contracting Parties.

2. Each of the Contracting Parties reserves the right to deny entry to its territory to seamen whom it considers undesirable.

*Article 12.* The Contracting Parties agree to render to each other, within the available possibilities, technical assistance in developing merchant fleets including training of seamen.

*Article 13.* 1. If a vessel of one of the Contracting Parties suffers shipwreck, runs aground, is cast ashore or suffers any other accident off the coast of the other Contracting Party, the vessel and the cargo shall enjoy, in the territory of the latter Contracting Party, the same benefits which are accorded to that Party's vessel and cargo.

2. The crew and passengers as well as the vessel and the cargo shall be granted, at any time, help and assistance to the same extent as in the case of a vessel of the latter Party.

3. The cargo and articles unloaded or saved from the vessel specified in paragraph 1 of this Article, provided they are not delivered for use or consumption in the territory of the other Contracting Party, shall not be liable to any customs duties.

*Article 14.* The judicial authorities of a Contracting Party shall not entertain proceedings arising out of a contract of service as a member of the crew of a vessel of the other Contracting Party without the request of the competent diplomatic or consular official of the flag State.

*Article 15.* Each Contracting Party shall assist in establishing in its territory representations of the shipping organizations of the other Contracting Party. The activities of such representations shall be subject to the legislation of the host country.

*Article 16.* The provisions of this Agreement do not affect the rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties arising out of international conventions on maritime law and shipping.

*Article 17.* For the purpose of efficient implementation of this Agreement and for consideration of any other shipping matters of mutual interest, a joint Commission is set up. The Commission may be convened at the request of either Contracting Party.

*Article 18.* 1. The matters referring to the interpretation and implementation of the present Agreement will be dealt with by the competent authorities of the two Contracting Parties.

These competent authorities are:

- In the Republic of Cyprus: the Ministry of Communications and Works;
- In the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: the Ministry of Merchant Marine.

2. In case there are differences of opinion which these authorities are not able to solve, the matter will be settled through diplomatic channels.

*Article 19.* 1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify the other Party on completion of procedures necessary in accordance with its legislation for the present Agreement to enter into force which shall become effective from the date of last notification.

2. The present Agreement shall be valid for an indefinite period of time and shall remain in force for twelve months from the date on which either Contracting Party has given a written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate it.

DONE in MOSCOW this 12th day of June 1985, in two original copies, each in the Greek, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the Republic of Cyprus:

[Signed]

CHRISTOS MAVRELLIS

For the Government  
of the Union  
of Soviet Socialist Republics:

[Signed]

T. GUZHENKO