

Agenda Item 6.2(d)

Information paper by Finland related to the Project proposal by Finland and the Russian Federation on *Harmonized implementation of the Polar Code*

PAME WG has discussed in it's previous sessions a project proposal on the Harmonized implementation of the Polar Code which is initiated by Finland and the Russian Federation. The aim of the project proposal is to facilitate the implementation of the Code and collect data to develop the Code further if needed.

During the course of discussions of the PAME WG it was decided that the project proposal will take into account existing and planned Port State Control (PSC) work of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and the Tokyo MoU. All the Arctic Council Member States except for the United States are members to the Paris MoU. Additionally, the Russian Federation and Canada are a member to the Tokyo MoU. In the United States, the authority responsible for the PSC is the US Coast Guard. Both the MoU's are conducting Concentrated Inspection Campaigns (CiC campaigns) on prioritized issues for the certain period of time.

In accordance, Finland is pleased to inform PAME II 2019 meeting on the developments in this respect. The Paris MoU's PSCC52 meeting that took place in St.Petersburg, in the Russian Federation in July 2019 when considering the Scheduling of future CIC's, decided to arrange an additional Concentrated Inspection Campaigne (CiC) on the implementation of the Polar Code in 2022.

- *"The Committee confirmed to organize an inspection campaign on the Polar Code in 2022 and welcome Task Force leader Denmark and members and endorsed the Terms of Reference;"*

The Finnish - Russian Project proposal has 4 subprojects. The subprojects will be prepared in details and conducted in collaboration with the Paris MoU and the Tokyo MoU if so decided i.e. the PAME WG will collaborate with the Paris MoU and the Tokyo MoU in developing what kind of data will be collected and at the end use the data collected by using the infrastructures of these two organizations. The above mentioned subprojects are following:

1. Arctic Council member states (national members of the PAME WG together with the national PSC authority) will develop ideas and material together with and for the Paris MoU and the Tokyo MoU for the Campaign to Collect Information on the Implementation of the Polar Code including a mechanism (checklist) for Administrations and the PAME WG to monitor if the vessel specific limitations given in the Polar Code Certificate have been followed.

2. During the Campaign data will be collected by the PSC authorities from vessels with the Polar Code Certificate visiting the ports of the participating Member States of the Arctic Council or as decided. Data collected will be used for future analysis by the Paris MoU/Tokyo MoU/Administrations and the PAME WG on the vessel specific limitations given in the Polar Code Certificate (sub project 3). Additionally, the visiting vessels will be informed on the regulations of the Polar Code.

3. The PAME WG with the help of the Administrations of the Arctic Council Member States will monitor and analyze, using the information collected by the Port State Authority during the Campaign, if the vessel specific limitations given in the Polar Code Certificate have been followed.

4. The Arctic Council Member States will draft and submit document/s to IMO (MEPCxx and/or MSCxx) on collected experiences and possible challenges in the implementation of the Polar Code in 2019/2020.

At the Arctic council PAME II-2017 (10-12 Sept 2017), it was decided that the project will be conducted in two phases: the Phase I to be started in 2018 will concentrate to deliver an information package on the Polar Code to all vessels visiting ports in all the Arctic Council member States. The Phase II will concentrate to collect information on the implementation of the Polar Code in junction to the port state control inspections following the decisions made in the Paris MOU and the Tokyo MOU.

In the light of recent developments in the Paris MoU's PSCC52 meeting Finland is inviting the PAME II 2019 meeting to discuss the *Harmonized implementation of the Polar Code* project's next steps.