

TRAINING : A STATEMENT BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON MARITIME TRANSPORT

The Joint Committee on Maritime Transport meeting in Brussels on 14 June 1996;

Welcomes the decision of the Commission to undertake a study on the recruitment and training situation in the EU, on how to attract young people into the maritime profession and on how to stimulate employment of EU nationals in the maritime sector.

Notes that such a study was requested by the European Parliament in the context of the Minimum Training Directive 94/58/EC.

Notes that preliminary results of the study conclude that if European shipping is to remain competitive internationally while maintaining and hopefully enhancing, the European seafaring profession and maritime know-how generally, the Community needs to actively contribute in financial terms to the maritime education, training and retraining arrangements in the EU.

Notes that the 1995 ISF/BIMCO Study on manpower supply suggests that with current wastage rates, levels of recruitment and training, together with an anticipated increase in officer demand as a result of the growth in the number of ships, the current developing worldwide shortage of properly qualified officers will accelerate.

Notes that the revised 1995 STCW Convention, together with the introduction of the ISM Code, should make a major contribution to achieving high standards and provide greater employment opportunities for well-qualified EU seafarers, both officers and ratings, but will also increase the requirement for high quality and expensive maritime training.

Notes that the need for measures in the training area in the Community context are recognised in the 1996 Commission Communication "Towards a New Maritime Strategy" and in recent reports from the European Parliament and ECOSOC.

Wishes to build on the anticipated results of the study by the social partners working together to identify common EU funding priorities for the industry.

Considers that the envisaged Commission sponsored Conference on The Future of Seafaring in the Community should positively contribute to such an initiative.

Requests the Commission to consider providing Community funding for this industry led study.