Information on the EU Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge

MSC96 Lunchtime presentation, London
18 May 2016
DG MOVE
Maritime Safety – Unit D2
Jacob Terling
Places of Refuge

- **Background:**
  - MSC Flaminia incident (2012)
  - EU group of experts established - Emphasis on cooperation and information-sharing (including States and Industry)
  - Focus on implementation of existing framework
EU Cooperation Group

- **Work so far:**

  - Submission to IMO MSC 96 for information
EU Operational Guidelines - WHY?

Need for *enhanced cooperation and coordination* among competent authorities and industry actors involved in an incident

Need for a *user-friendly manual for implementation of existing rules* – drafted with a real incident scenario in mind

Need to *change attitudes* towards ships in need of assistance – within Governments, competent authorities and industry
EU Operational Guidelines - WHEN?

Covering *all operational stages* of an incident that may lead to a ship in need of assistance seeking a place of refuge

Complementing national plans

Clarifying who should take the lead and who should support
Even if one State may not, following an appropriate risk assessment, be in a position to offer a Place of Refuge, the handling of the assessment process should continue in cooperation with the other State(s), who may be in a better position to offer accommodation.
EU Operational Guidelines

Initial incident reporting, monitoring & information gathering

Coordination

Requesting a place of refuge

Risk assessment & inspection

Decision making & managing outcomes
EU Operational Guidelines

VTMIS

Places of Refuge

EU Operational Guidelines

Version 3 - Final 13 November 2015

Summing up

The operational guidelines have been drafted aiming at a robust operational process leading to well-advised and, where possible, quicker decision-making. At the same time they should contribute to promoting positive attitudes – within Governments, authorities and industry.

As a matter of principle, each State involved in the operation should examine the ability to provide a place of refuge. In principle, and unless deemed unsafe, there should be "no rejection without inspection".