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P & I CLUB CORRESPONDENTS

CIRCULAR TO ALL P&I CLUBS"

Date: 12 May 2025

Subject: Letter Regarding Istanbul Strait Anchorage Areas (Circular no:2)

Dear Sirs,

In the letter dated 07 May 2025 and numbered 2702652, submitted by the Directorate General of Maritime Affairs of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure;

It is stated that, in accordance with the Port Regulations published in the Official Gazette dated 31 October 2012 and numbered 28453, and the Turkish Straits Vessel Traffic Services Regulation published on 15 August 2019 and numbered 30859, rules regarding the anchoring of vessels and marine craft within the administrative port areas of our country and the Turkish Straits have been established. It is further stated that inspections and audits by the Administration continue within the framework of the applicable legislation in order to ensure the safety of navigation, life, property, and the environment.

However, it has been observed that from time to time, vessels and marine crafts fail to comply with anchoring rules. In particular, it has been identified that vessels anchoring in the Southern Anchorage Areas of the Istanbul Strait have sometimes dropped anchor outside the designated anchorage areas, thus posing a risk of damaging underwater infrastructure such as cable systems and petroleum or natural gas pipelines.

In order to prevent possible incidents in this context, it has been emphasized that for vessels intending to use the Southern Anchorage Areas of the Istanbul Strait and the anchorage areas under the jurisdiction of the Ambarlı Port Authority, ship agents must inform the vessel's master and/or concerned parties prior to anchoring about the following:

- a) The vessel must not anchor outside the designated anchorage area,
- b) The vessel master is responsible for taking necessary monitoring and precautionary measures against potential anchor dragging
- c) In the event of anchoring outside the designated anchorage zones, administrative sanctions will be applied in accordance with the applicable legislation

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d) If it is determined that the vessel is positioned outside the anchorage area, regardless of whether any underwater infrastructure has been damaged or not, an escort tugboat may be assigned by the relevant port authority,

e) In cases where the vessel poses a potential threat, including the need for underwater hull and keel inspection, all related expenses shall be borne by the responsible parties of the vessel.

Ship agents are required to convey the above matters to the vessel's master or relevant parties.

Submitted for your kind info.

Please contact us if you have any further queries and if you / your members need our assistance, we are always at your disposal.

Our Emergency phone number is: +90 530 129 12 12

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Best regards,

VITSAN MUMESSILLIK VE MUSAVIRLIK AS, ISTANBUL