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Circular Letter No.4231/Add.8
21 July 2020

To: All IMO Member
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Italy**

The Government of the Republic of Italy has sent the attached communication, dated 20 July 2020, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

ANNEX

**Ministry of Infrastructures and
Transport**

*Italian Coast Guard Headquarters
Safety of Navigation and
Maritime Security Department*

Rome, 20 July 2020

(p.o.c. Rear Admiral UH (ITCG) Luigi GIARDINO

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HE Mr. Kitack Lim
Secretary General of the
International Maritime Organization

Subject: Measures to Address Covid-19.

Dear Secretary-General Lim,

Stringent restrictions have been implemented by the coastal states as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. In its efforts to abide by these restrictions, the Italian Coast Guard Headquarters is still facing criticism related, in particular, to a sharp slowdown in the number of ships going into dry dock and, in some cases, the banning of access for ships.

In order to ensure the ships' safety, the Italian Coast Guard has introduced measures to verify, within the time period established by SOLAS Regulation I/10(a)(v), the condition of the bottom of the ships flying the Italian flag, as explained in Circular Letter No. 4231/Add.1 of 2nd April 2020.

In particular, in cases of proven impossibility for the ship enter dry dock, it has been decided that the in dry-dock inspection of the bottom of the ship can be postponed until 30th June 2020, subject to the satisfactory result of an in-water bottom survey.

However, in light of the ongoing emergency situation, this approach will continue until 30th September 2020.

We would therefore like to ask the Secretariat to kindly have this information regarding the postponement of the required bottom dry-dock inspection circulated to all member states of the IMO.

Your valuable attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

The Italian Coast Guard avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The General Commander
Vice Admiral (ITCG) Giovanni PETTORINO**