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Liberian Registry applauds Ukraine boost for tanker owners

THE LIBERIAN Registry welcomes the action recently taken by the Ukrainian government to reduce port costs for Liberian-flag ships, which will help tanker owners and raise standards in the Black Sea trades. The Ukrainian Government Order No.1069 of 17 July 2003 cancelled the different tonnage dues tariffs for vessels flying favoured and non-favoured flags. Tonnage dues are now the same for both categories. The effect of the change was to remove the last tariff barrier preventing the use of Liberian-flag tankers serving the Black Sea oil export trades.

Yoram Cohen, ceo of LISCR, says, "The Ukrainian government's decision to harmonise port dues so that ships of all flags calling at Ukrainian ports pay the same rate means owners can now opt for the highest quality flags to access the trade. This is good news for the Ukraine, good news for tanker owners worldwide, good news for the Black Sea, and good news for the Liberian flag.

"Liberia is the flag of choice for the world's tanker fleet. The previous system in the Ukraine, under which ships of a few favoured flags were charged lower port dues, effectively made it difficult for owners of aframax and suezmax tankers trading to Black Sea ports to benefit from the efficiency of the Liberian Registry, and difficult for Ukrainian ships flying foreign flags to trade to their own ports. Now a typical 80,000 dwt vessel under our flag will see port costs cut by as much as 70 per cent when calling at Ukrainian Black Sea. Owners can now use their flag of choice, unhindered by two-tier charging systems for port dues. We believe this will raise safety and environmental standards in the Black Sea trades, as more vessels move to our registry and then have to meet Liberia's stringent standards."

The Liberian Registry continues to grow, as shipowners, operators, financiers and lawyers everywhere recognise its unique combination of a tried and tested legal framework, one of the best safety and quality records in the world, of any registry, and optimum levels of service and response to shipowners' and financiers' needs.

In the recently released 2002 report of the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control, the Liberian Registry has once again underlined its reputation for the

highest standards of safety and efficiency by retaining its position as the best-performing major ship register.

With the introduction of more selective targeting, expanded inspections and new banning provisions, the Paris MoU is moving towards a zero-tolerance policy. It ranks individual flags in Black, Grey and White Lists, based on their performance over a three-year rolling period. The Liberian Registry is consistently in the top ten in the prestigious White List, with a significantly superior performance compared to any register of comparable size.

- The Liberian Registry is one of the world's largest and most active open registers, with a fifty-year track record of combining the highest standards for vessels and crews with the highest standards of responsive service to owners. It is proud to be on the Paris MOU White List of high-standard flags and the top ranked significant registry on the USCG Port State Control rankings. Almost 2,000 vessels of 54 m gt currently fly the Liberian flag.

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