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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS DEMANDED POLAND AND SPAIN TO HARMONIZE THEIR INTERNAL PORT STATE CONTROL LAW WITH EUROPEAN LAW REGARDING MARITIME SAFETY

The European Commission has requested Spain and Poland –in terms of ultimatum- to respect European Law regarding port state control of vessels in ports, advising that these countries have not properly applied a 1995 Rule modified after the “Erika” accident, in view of reducing the navigation of deficient vessels on common seas. This Rule also states common criteria for port state control and harmonizes inspection and detention proceedings.

The Spanish case has suggested that there is a lack of proper qualifications from a number of control inspectors, after an evaluation from the European Agency of Maritime Safety carried out within a vigilance programme created to investigate the way in which each State applies the commented Rule.

We have tried to obtain the advice from the General Directorate of Merchant Marine in this respect, with which we shall monitor the measures taken to find a solution to this situation.

Considering the above, we invite Owners, if facing any Paris MOU detention, to inquire about inspectors’ proper qualifications when doubts about such arise, in which we can assist in case of need.