

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE  
73rd session  
Agenda item 8

MEPC 73/8/8  
31 August 2018  
Original: ENGLISH

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTION PLAN TO  
ADDRESS MARINE PLASTIC LITTER FROM SHIPS**

**Ensuring adequate port reception facilities**

**Submitted by ICS, BIMCO, INTERTANKO and WSC**

**SUMMARY**

*Executive summary:* This document provides comments on documents MEPC 73/8 and MEPC 73/8/2, and requests that the new action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships should be implemented with a shared responsibility ashore as well as on board

*Strategic direction,  
if applicable:* 4

*Output:* 4.3

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 10

*Related documents:* MEPC 73/8 and MEPC 73/8/2

**Introduction**

1 This document is submitted in accordance with paragraph 6.12.5 of the *Organization and method of work of the Maritime Safety Committee and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and their subsidiary bodies* (MSC-MEPC.1/Circ.5/Rev.1). The document provides comments on the new draft action plan to address marine plastic litter from ships and the subsequent information and proposals in documents MEPC 73/8 (Secretariat) and MEPC 73/8/2 (Chile et al.).

2 Both documents identify several issues that contribute to the marine plastic litter problem. This document focuses on the need for all the stakeholders to be involved to ensure that marine plastic litter is minimized at source and subsequently managed effectively at port reception facilities.

### **Port reception facilities**

3 Document MEPC 73/8 clearly describes the extensive work undertaken by IMO and the shipping industry in minimizing marine plastic litter from ships. In doing so, the Secretariat highlights that "the capacity of ships to comply with the discharge requirements of MARPOL is dependent on the availability of adequate port reception facilities". In this respect, the co-sponsors welcome the detailed reminder of the history and essential nature of providing port reception facilities explained in paragraphs 24 to 33 of document MEPC 73/8.

4 Document MEPC 73/8/2 mentions that adequate reception facilities available in ports are a prerequisite for proper collection and handling of MARPOL Annex V garbage, including all plastic garbage from ships. The co-sponsors welcome and agree with this statement.

5 However, to avoid the plastic waste from reaching the sea, garbage collection and management on board ships should be followed by subsequent destruction or recycling after delivery to reception facilities ashore.

6 Paragraph 70 of document MEPC 73/8/2 welcomes guidelines on the reuse, reduction and recycling of plastic on board. Taking into consideration already existing guidelines from the Organization on the implementation of MARPOL Annex V, set out in resolution MEPC.295(71), such guidelines should be accompanied by guidelines on how to manage ship-generated plastic waste on the shore side as well.

### **Proposal**

7 To ensure that plastic waste delivered to reception facilities does not end up in the sea, the co-sponsors propose that the new action plan adequately addresses the entire process of plastic garbage handling and ensures that landed garbage is managed in a sustainable manner ashore. The new action plan should therefore be implemented, with a shared responsibility ashore as well as at sea, taking into account the relevant paragraphs of documents MEPC 73/8 and MEPC 73/8/2, as highlighted above.

8 Noting that many shipping companies have implemented procurement procedures to minimize plastic coming aboard in the first place, the co-sponsors would propose that the action plan also consider the minimization of non-biodegradable plastic packaging and dunnage used on board ships and review best management practice associated with this process.

9 The proposal is in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12):<sup>1</sup> Responsible Consumption and Production.

### **Action requested of the Committee**

10 The Committee is invited to note the information and comments contained in this document and take action as deemed appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/hottopics/pages/sustainabledevelopmentgoals.aspx>