Ref No.: 520.20/2006/BMCO DT/12201

VERY URGENT

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and with reference to the Latter's Note dated 15 June 2005 (Ref. no: C.L.17.2005) has the honour to notify the Director-General of the statement made by the Republic of Turkey with respect to the International Health Regulations, which reads as follows:

"Turkey will implement the provisions of the International Health Regulations in accordance with the Convention regarding the regime of the Turkish Straits, signed at Montreux on 20 July 1936, as well as by taking into account Turkish 1998 Maritime Traffic Regulations for the Turkish Straits and any future revisions to be made thereto."

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director-General of the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14 December 2006

The Director-General of the World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
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Ref No.: 520.20/2007/BMCO DT/1711

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and with reference to the Latter's Note dated 12 February 2007 (Ref. no: C.L.8.2007) and the Note enclosed therein of the Permanent Mission of Greece dated 24 January 2007 (Ref. no: 331/6395/6/AS 168) has the honour to inform the Director-General of the following.

The Maritime Traffic Regulations for the Turkish Straits have been put into effect taking into account Turkey's obligations and rights arising from the Montreux Convention. The said Regulations do not contain any element that is in contravention of international law or International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Rules and Recommendations and are being implemented accordingly.

The measures taken in the Turkish Straits in accordance with the said Regulations are aimed at improving the safety of navigation, human life, cultural and environmental heritage. Moreover, the safety measures are needed vis-a-vis the risks and dangers of passage of the increased number of tanker traffic in the Straits.

Turkey has duly informed IMO of the safety measures taken in the Straits. Besides, Traffic Separation Schemes and Reporting System, established within the framework of the Turkish Straits Regulations, were adopted by IMO together with some other rules in 1995.

Furthermore, the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO confirmed at its 71st session on May 1999 that the routing system and the associated IMO Rules and Recommendations relating to the Turkish Straits have proven to be effective and successful and had contributed significantly to an increase in safety and a reduction of the risk of collisions.

The Turkish Straits Vessel Traffic Services which have been functioning since 31 December 2003 within the framework of the Montreux Convention, IMO Rules and the Turkish Straits Regulations, provide traffic arrangements successfully with high standard technical equipment and qualified expert personnel.

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Accordingly, the arguments in the above-mentioned Note of the Permanent Mission of Greece are unfounded and the statement of Turkey registered in our Note dated 14 December 2006 (Ref. no: 520.20/2006/BMCO DT/12201) remains unchanged and valid.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey requests the Director-General to circulate the present Note and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director-General of the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 1 March 2007
Ref No.: 520.20/2007/BMCO DT/4333

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and with reference to the Latter's Note dated 9 May 2007 (Ref. no: C.L.22.2007) and the Note enclosed therein of the Permanent Mission of Greece dated 16 April 2007 (Ref. no: 6395(3160)/22/AS 783) has the honour to inform the Director-General of the following.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey would like to underline that the statement in this Mission's Note of December 14, 2006 No: 520.20/BMCO DT/12201 was a factual representation of the state of affairs.

Furthermore, the Permanent Mission would like to point out that the arguments and assertions raised in the Greek Delegation's abovementioned Note, are unfounded. Turkey's position on the Maritime Traffic Regulations for the Turkish Straits is also acknowledged by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and remains unchanged. In fact, Turkish Straits Vessel Traffic Services (TSVTS) center is effectively providing traffic information, navigational assistance and traffic organization under the existing regulations to all vessels passing through the Straits.

As to the terminology used when referring to the Montreux Convention, the Permanent Mission, with all due respect to the wording of the said Convention, would like to emphasize the fact that the Straits subject of the said Convention are the "Turkish Straits", namely, the "Strait of Istanbul" and the "Strait of Çanakkale".

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey requests the Director-General to circulate the present Note and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director-General of the World Health Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 18 May 2007

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