

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



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ASSEMBLY - 15th session
Agenda item 12

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RESOLUTION A.596(15)

adopted on 19 November 1987

SAFETY OF PASSENGER RO-RO FERRIES

THE ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING Article 15(j) of the Convention on the International Maritime Organization concerning the functions of the Assembly in relation to regulations and guidelines concerning maritime safety,

NOTING the tragic loss of the United Kingdom registered passenger ro-ro ferry Herald of Free Enterprise which capsized off the port of Zeebrugge on 6 March 1987 with the loss of 193 lives,

NOTING ALSO that the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-fourth session readjusted its work programme to give priority in matters, including stability and watertight integrity, which are directed towards the enhancement of the safety of passenger ro-ro ferries and that the Government of the United Kingdom has made available, for the information of Members of that Committee, a list of the measures proposed in the report of its national Court of Investigation,

NOTING FURTHER the proposal made by the Government of the United Kingdom for amendments to chapter II-1 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, (A 15/12/4, annex 1) with a view to consideration and adoption by the Maritime Safety Committee at its fifty-fifth session in accordance with article VIII of the Convention,

RECOGNIZING ALSO that the great majority of maritime accidents are due to human error and fallibility and that the safety of ships will be greatly enhanced by the establishment of improved operating practices,

1. RESOLVES that the Organization give a high priority to its work aimed at enhancing the safety of passenger ro-ro ferries;
 2. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to take all possible action to meet this objective, including the earliest possible consideration and adoption of amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention, relating to passenger ro-ro ferries, and the facilitation of a rapid entry into force of these amendments;
 3. URGES that, upon adoption of the amendments to the 1974 SOLAS Convention by the Maritime Safety Committee, and pending their entry into force, Member Governments encourage shipowners voluntarily to fit on their ships the equipment required by the amendments.
 4. REQUESTS the Maritime Safety Committee to develop, as a matter of urgency, guidelines, wherever relevant, concerning shipboard and shore-based management procedures to better ensure safe operation of passenger ro-ro ferries.
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