

## Press release no. 2

Date: 21-8-2012

### **MSC FLAMINIA towed into German waters**

The CCME is in charge of the towing operation to bring the German owned container vessel MSC FLAMINIA back to our EEZ, where she is prepared for anchorage at a currently not specified road. Later on, the vessel will be moved to a safe port. At anchorage experts will analyze the peril that may still exist from cargo and the vessel itself. Having this information the CCME will decide about the port of choice for the MSC FLAMINIA. As soon as the MSC FLAMINIA is within British waters, a first inspection will be conducted by experts from Britain, the Netherlands and France on order of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

“It is in the interest of Germany to ensure the seaworthiness of the vessel and eliminate any harm to the environment” was stated by head of CCME Mr. Monsees at a joint press conference, together with the owner of the vessel, earlier this day. Having made the decision to move the vessel that is registered in the port of Hamburg, with an overall length of 300m and a capacity of 6750 TEU into our waters, the flag state Germany takes the responsibility for minimizing the threat.

By the time the MSC FLAMINIA is safely moored alongside in port, further investigation will be conducted by experts from fire, chemical and engineering departments in order to agree upon further activities. These experts will focus on the structure of the vessel as well as the remaining cargo.

Possible measures from CCME are the removal of the contaminated fire fighting water and ore some containers that might be an issue.

At present the MSC FLAMINIA, towed by SMIT tugs, is still 350 nm away from the entrance of the Channel which it is expected to enter within two weeks time. All together the whole operation may stand up to two months.

On her way from Charleston/USA to Bremerhaven (via Felixtowe and Antwerp) the container vessel was hit by fire on July 14th, followed by an explosion of her cargo. One fellow seaman has lost his life, while one is still missing and one further severely injured seaman is still under treatment in hospital. Two slightly injured crew members could already leave hospital at the Azores, where they had been brought. The crew of MSC FLAMINIA abandoned the vessel shortly after the explosion occurred and has been rescued by the nearby tankship DS Crown.

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