

## Statement by Greece

Thank you Madam Chair,

With reference to the National Report of Türkiye submitted to the MBSHC-24, Greece would like to point out the following:

**A.** The National Report presents, in page 5, a map with the alleged Turkish NAVTEX Service Area. This map is inaccurate, unfounded and misleading for the following reasons:

The presented Turkish NAVTEX service area is illegal to the extent it overlaps Greek territorial waters. Moreover, it was declared unilaterally by Türkiye, given that the latter did not follow the procedure provided by the IMO & IHO for the establishment of NAVTEX Service Areas. As a result, the alleged Turkish NAVTEX service area overlaps parts of the Service Areas of the Greek NAVTEX stations in Limnos and Iraklion.

The Greek NAVTEX Service Areas were established together with the Greek NAVTEX Stations (Kerkyra, Limnos, Iraklion) in 1986 in full conformity with the IMO and IHO Regulations (see attached map). In particular, the Greek NAVTEX stations in Limnos and Iraklion, with the transmitter identification character (B1), L and H respectively, have been efficiently operating within their service areas since 1986 without encountering any problems and fully covering the needs for the safety of navigation within their service areas, in accordance with the IMO and IHO specified features, regulations and principles. In this respect, it should be underlined that these areas contain a nexus of widely spread Greek islands, where a large number (more than 300) of lighthouses, lights, fog signals, buoys and other navigational aids are situated, which are under continuous inspection and repair by the respective Greek services, aiming at ensuring the safety of navigation and the preservation of the marine environment.

It should be underlined that Türkiye not only did not object to the establishment, in 1986, of the boundaries of the Greek NAVTEX Service Area, but also accepted their operation until 2008. A Turkish proposal for modification of the existing NAVTEX Service Areas in the Aegean and the Mediterranean, submitted in 2008, was rejected due, among other reasons, to the lack of consent of the neighbouring countries, as clearly stated in the NAVAREA III Coordinator's letter dated 31 March 2008.

**B.** The National Report, in page 5, paragraph 2, makes a reference to the illegal secessionist entity in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus, as the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC)", while the map on the same page shows this part of Cyprus as being part of the so-called "TRNC".

It should be recalled out that this illegal secessionist entity is in the part of the Republic of Cyprus which has been occupied by the Turkish military since 1974, and its unilateral declaration of independence, in 1983, has been condemned by the UN Security Council. In its Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984), the UNSC explicitly states that there is only one State on the island of Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus, and it calls upon all States not to recognize, nor facilitate or assist in any way this secessionist entity. Indeed, since 1983, this illegal entity has not been recognized by any State, with the sole exception of Türkiye.

Thank you