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General Secretariat

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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Shipping
N° Cion doc.:	ST 14889/25
Subject:	135th session of the IMO Council (C 135) (London, 19-21 November 2025) - Submission by the Russian Federation

Delegations will find attached, for information purposes only, document C 135/14/2 containing a submission by the Russian Federation on violation of the terms of the provision of GMDSS satellite communications services.

COUNCIL
135th session
Agenda item 14

C 135/14/2
22 October 2025
Original: ENGLISH
Pre-session public release:

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA ITEMS, IF ANY

Violation of the terms of the provision of GMDSS satellite communications services

Submitted by the Russian Federation

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information from the Russian Federation on violations of the terms of provision of satellite communications services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

Strategic direction, if applicable: Not applicable

Output: Not applicable

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: IMO Convention, SOLAS 74, IMSO Convention, Inmarsat Public Services Agreement (PSA), resolution A.1001(25) and C 134/24/2

Background

1 At the 134th session of the IMO Council, held from 7 to 11 July 2025, the Russian Federation submitted document C 134/24/2 on violations of the terms of provision of satellite communications services in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS). The document provided information that in the period from 2022 until 2025, **Inmarsat Global Limited**, an IMO recognized provider of mobile satellite services, imposed restrictions on vessels under the flag of the Russian Federation, as well as vessels registered, owned or operated in the Russian Federation, disconnecting vessels from the services of the Inmarsat mobile satellite communication system, being a recognized component of the GMDSS.

Discussion

2 The IMO Council further noted the information presented in document C 134/24/2 (Russian Federation), and the comments made in plenary. Taking into account the present arrangements in place for the oversight and reporting of the performance of recognized mobile satellite services, the Council invited the Russian Federation and any other interested Member States to raise directly with the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) any case for which they considered that the provisions of resolution A.1001(25) had not been observed or adhered to by a recognized mobile satellite service provider.

3 Taking into account that disconnecting ships from the services of the Inmarsat mobile satellite communications system recognized in the GMDSS poses a threat to the safety of global merchant shipping, provokes risks to the critical information infrastructure of maritime transport and to the environment, the Russian Federation expresses serious concern and considers it necessary to raise awareness among IMO Member States and the international community about the current situation.

4 Since the 134th session of the IMO Council, the situation with the barring of Inmarsat mobile satellite communications services on board Russian vessels has not been resolved, and even worsened. In addition to the barring of satellite communications services by **Inmarsat Global Limited**, one of its providers, **Marlink AS** (Norway), imposed global restrictions on 11 vessels under the flag of the Russian Federation, barring Inmarsat mobile satellite communications services on board. The reason for barring is indicated as financial debt, which is not true and, as a result, violates the rules for the provision of mobile satellite communications services in the GMDSS.

5 The number of vessels under the flag of the Russian Federation, as well as vessels registered, owned or operated in the Russian Federation, disconnected by Inmarsat Global Limited from the services of the Inmarsat mobile satellite communication system, being a recognized component of the GMDSS, at the moment is 127.

Proposal

6 Based on the above-mentioned, the Russian Federation calls on the IMO Council to:

- .1 reconsider the current situation;
- .2 obtain clarifications from Inmarsat Global Limited regarding the restrictions imposed on the provision of communication services;
- .3 inform the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) about the current situation;
- .4 assist in the full restoration of satellite communication services on board vessels under the flag of the Russian Federation, as well as vessels registered, owned or operated in the Russian Federation; and
- .5 take effective measures to prevent the recurrence of such practices in the future.

Action requested of the Council

7 The Council is invited to

- .1 note the information provided in the document;
- .2 consider the proposal contained in paragraph 6; and
- .3 take actions as appropriate.