

Agreement
between the Government of the State of Israel
and the Government of the Russian Federation
on Cooperation in the field of Maritime Transport

The Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Parties),

Aiming at the development of friendly relations between the two States, and the strengthening of co-operation between them in the field of maritime transport,

In accordance with the principles of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The aims of this Agreement are to:

encourage further development of maritime transport relations between the two States;

ensure effective coordination in shipping;

contribute in general to the development of commercial and economic relations between the two States.

Article 2

The terms used in this Agreement, mean:

"competent authority":

in the State of Israel - the Ministry of Transport of the State of Israel;

in the Russian Federation - the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation;

"vessel of a Party"-any vessel registered in the shipping register of the State of the Party, flying the flag of that State and engaged in international maritime traffic.

However, this term does not include:

war ships and other government ships operated for non-commercial purposes;

vessels for hydrographic, oceanographic and scientific research;

fishing vessels;

sport and pleasure vessels;

"member of the crew" -the master and any other person actually employed for duties on board during the voyage in the working or service of a vessel, included in the crew list and holding identity documents referred to in article 8 of this Agreement;

"shipping enterprise of a Party" -any organization operating vessels engaged in international maritime traffic, which is established in accordance with the legislation of the State of that Party and has its seat in the territory of that State.

Article 3

The Parties shall maintain and develop effective working relationships between the competent authorities including, in particular, mutual consultations and the exchange of information. The Parties shall also encourage the development of contacts between the respective shipping enterprises and shipping-related organizations of both States.

Pursuant to the above, the Parties shall co-operate and shall encourage the respective maritime organizations of both States to co-operate, inter alia, in the following aspects:

- to satisfy the needs of international maritime transport and make full and effective use of the maritime fleet and ports of both States;
- to ensure maritime safety, including the safety of vessels, members of the crew, cargo and passengers;
- to enhance the protection of the marine environment;
- to increase contacts in the field of maritime transport economics, science and technology;
- to share technologies in the field of shipbuilding and ship repair;
- to co-operate in the field of professional training of merchant marine and port personnel;
- to exchange views regarding the activities of the International Maritime Organization and other international maritime organizations.

Article 4

1. The Parties shall:
 - a) promote participation of their vessels in sea trade between the ports of the States of the Parties;
 - b) co-operate in elimination of the obstacles which might hamper the development of sea trade between the ports of their States;
 - c) not hinder the participation of the vessels of one Party in sea trade between the ports of the State of the other Party and the ports of third States.
2. The provisions of this article shall not affect the right of the vessels of third States to participate in sea trade between the ports of the States of the Parties.

Article 5

1. Each Party shall grant to vessels of the other Party the same treatment as it affords to its own vessels engaged in international voyages in respect of free access to ports, use of ports for loading and unloading of cargo and for embarking and disembarking passengers, payment of port dues, exercising normal commercial operations, carrying out the respective formalities and use of services intended for navigation.
2. Each Party shall grant to vessels of third States engaged in international voyages operated by shipping enterprises of the other Party the treatment specified in paragraph 1 of this article, if it does not contradict international obligations or the legislation of the State of the first Party.
3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article:
 - a) shall not apply to ports not open to the entry of foreign vessels;
 - b) shall not apply to activities reserved by each of the Parties for its organizations, including in particular cabotage, towage, pilotage and salvage;
 - c) shall not oblige either Party to extend to vessels of the other Party exemptions from compulsory pilotage requirements granted to its own vessels.

Article 6

The Parties shall adopt, within the limits of the legislation and port regulations of their States, all appropriate measures to facilitate and expedite maritime traffic, to prevent unnecessary delays to vessels, and to expedite and simplify as much as possible customs and other formalities applicable in ports.

Article 7

1. The documents certifying the nationality of vessels, tonnage certificates and other ship's documents duly issued by the appropriate authorities of one of the Parties, shall be recognized by the other Party.
2. The vessels of each Party holding tonnage certificates issued in accordance with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969 shall not be subject to re-measurement in the ports of the State of the other Party.

Article 8

1. Each Party shall recognize the seaman's identity documents duly issued by the appropriate authorities of the other Party.
These documents are:
in respect of the State of Israel - Seaman's Book of the State of Israel;
in respect of the Russian Federation - Seaman's passport.
2. The provisions of articles 9 to 10 of this Agreement shall apply correspondingly to any person who is not a national of the State of Israel or of the Russian Federation but possesses an identity document conforming to the provisions of the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965 and the Annex thereto, or which has been issued in accordance with the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 (No. 108) of the International Labor Organization. Such identity document shall be issued by a State which is a party to the relevant Convention and shall guarantee the readmission of the holder to the State which issued the document.

Article 9

Members of the crew of the vessel of one of the Parties holding the seaman's identity documents specified in paragraph 1 of article 8 of this Agreement shall be permitted to stay for temporary shore leave without visas during the stay of the vessel in the port of the State of the other Party, in accordance with the regulations in force in that port, provided that the master had submitted the crew list to the appropriate local authorities.

While landing and returning to the vessel the said persons shall be subject to frontier and customs control in force in that port.

Article 10

Holders of the seaman's identity documents specified in paragraph 1 of article 8 of this Agreement shall be permitted as passengers by any means of transportation to enter the territory of the State of the other Party or to pass through it in transit whenever they are on the way to their vessel or transferring to another vessel, on the way to their own State or going for any other reason approved by the authorities of this other Party, subject to the legislation of its State.

In such cases, if according to the legislation of the State of the respective Party visas are required they shall be granted within the shortest possible time.

Article 11

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of articles 8 to 10 of this Agreement, the regulations in respect of entry, stay and departure of foreigners shall remain in force in the territories of the States of the Parties.
2. Each Party reserves the right to deny entry to the territory of its State to any person whom it considers undesirable.

Article 12

1. If a vessel of one of the Parties suffers shipwreck, runs aground, is cast ashore or suffers any other accident off the coast of the State of the other Party, the latter Party shall give all possible assistance granted in similar cases to its own vessels, to the vessel, crew members, passengers and cargoes and notify as soon as possible the appropriate authorities of the Party concerned.
2. Each Party shall, as far as possible, grant to vessels of third States engaged in international voyages operated by shipping enterprises of the other Party the treatment specified in paragraph 1 of this article.
3. The cargo and articles unloaded or saved from a vessel specified in paragraph 1 of this article shall not be liable to any customs duties provided they are not delivered for use or consumption in the territory of the State of the other Party.

Article 13

The provisions of this Agreement shall not affect the rights and obligations of the Parties arising from other international treaties to which they are parties.

Article 14

The Parties shall assist in establishing in the territories of their States representative offices, subsidiaries and affiliated companies of the shipping enterprises and shipping-related organizations of the other Party. The activity of such entities shall be subject to the legislation of the host State.

Article 15

The representatives of the competent authorities of the Parties may periodically meet alternately in the State of Israel and the Russian Federation, at the request of one of the Parties for considering the course of implementation of this Agreement and discussion of any other maritime transport matters of mutual interest.

Article 16

Any dispute concerning interpretation or application of this Agreement shall be settled by direct negotiations between the competent authorities of the Parties.

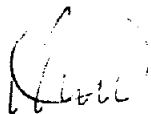
In case no agreement is reached, the dispute shall be settled through diplomatic channels.

Article 17

1. This Agreement shall enter into force in thirty days from the date of the last written notification through diplomatic channels confirming completion by the Parties of the internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement.
2. This Agreement shall remain in force until six months from the date on which one of the Parties notifies in writing through diplomatic channels to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

Done at Moscow, this 2 day of December 2003, which corresponds to the 10 of Kislev 5764, in two copies each in the Hebrew, Russian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation the English text shall be used.

For the Government
of the State of Israel



For the Government
of the Russian Federation

