

**Ministries of Economy and Employment and of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Organization of the Territory**

Offices of the Minister of Economy and Employment and of the Minister of Agriculture, the Sea, the Environment and the Organization of the Territory

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The General Assembly of the International Labour Organization, adopted, in its 94<sup>th</sup> maritime session on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2006, the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006 (MLC, 2006).

The MLC 2006 Convention groups a set of dispositions which are meant to guarantee minimum life and working conditions to seafarers aboard the vessels, namely minimum working conditions; employment access conditions; accommodation and leisure; health, medical assistance, well-being and social security; and definition of the responsibilities on the application of the Convention.

In the terms set by article VIII of the MLC, 2006, the Convention will enter internationally into force 12 months after the date in which at least 30 ratifications, representing a minimum of 30% of the gross tonnage of the worldwide's merchant fleet, are achieved. This condition has been fulfilled on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2012, having then been established the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 as the date for the entrance into force of the MLC, 2006.

At the national level, the process of ratification of the MLC, 2006 and the respective regulation have been carried out within a working group comprised of representatives from the following entities with responsibilities in the different matters covered by the MLC, 2006: the General-Directorate of Employment and Working Relations and the Authority of the Working Conditions, of the Ministry of Economy and Employment; and the General-Directorate of the Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Organization of the Territory.

Considering that, up until the present date, it has not yet been possible to conclude the ratification process of the MLC, 2006 and the respective regulation, and not being predictable that such ratification will take place until the 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, date in which the Convention enters into force, and considering the urgent necessity of the Portuguese State to convey guidelines concerning the implementation of the dispositions of the MLC, 2006 to shipowners with Portuguese flagged vessels, avoiding that the delays in the process may harm the Portuguese economy, it is determined that:

Until the final appointment of the competent authorities for the effects set in the MLC, 2006, it is attributed to the General-Directorate of the Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services the undertaking of all the tasks resulting from the responsibilities attributable to Portugal as a Flag State relatively to the matters referred to in the Convention.