



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

**Brussels, 24 January 2024**

**WK 1076/2024 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**MAR**

**OMI**

**WHO**

*This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.*

## **INFORMATION**

---

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Shipping
Subject:	Preparation of IMO/FAL 48 (London, 8-12 April 2024) - Draft submission by Greece - Any other business - Update on the ongoing process to amend the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)

---

Delegations will find attached a draft submission by Greece, in view of the 48th session of the IMO Facilitation Committee (agenda item 19).

The purpose of this document is to inform the Committee of the ongoing Member State-led process at the World Health Organization to amend the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), which may potentially require future amendments of the Annex to the FAL Convention.

Greece invites interested Member States to take note/support the draft.

Member States willing to join as co-sponsor of the draft submission are invited to contact Lt Commander HCG S. Syrigos at [dpn@hcg.gr](mailto:dpn@hcg.gr) (cc: [e.valergakis@rp-grece.be](mailto:e.valergakis@rp-grece.be)) until Wednesday, 31st January 2024.

FACILITATION COMMITTEE  
48<sup>th</sup> session  
Agenda item 19

FAL 48/19  
January 2024  
Original: ENGLISH  
Pre-session public release:

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Update on the ongoing process to amend the International Health Regulations (2005)(IHR)

Submitted by Greece

#### SUMMARY

*Executive summary:* The purpose of this document is to inform the Committee of the ongoing Member State-led process at the World Health Organization to amend the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR), which may potentially require future amendments of the Annex to the FAL Convention

*Strategic direction,  
If applicable:* 5

*Output:* Not applicable

*Action to be taken:* Paragraph 7

*Related documents:* Resolution FAL.14(46); Resolution A.1149(32)

#### Background

1 This document is submitted to inform the Committee as regards the ongoing Member State-led process at the World Health Organization to potentially amend the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR). The IHR are currently being addressed by a World Health Organization (WHO) intergovernmental working group, mandated to present a package of amendments for consideration to the 77<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2024. These potential amendments to the IHR may require future amendments of the Annex to the FAL Convention.

2 Building on the lessons learned from the various review panels that examined the functioning of the IHR and the global health security architecture during the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO Member States decided, through [Executive Board Decision 150\(3\)](#)(2022) and [World Health Assembly Decision WHA75\(9\)](#)(2022), to establish a Working Group on Amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005) (WGIHR) to consider possible amendments to the IHR.

3 The WGIHR is considering more than 300 proposed amendments to 33 of the 66 articles of the IHR (2005) and 5 of its 9 annexes, plus 6 new articles and 2 new annexes. Pursuant to [decision WHA75\(9\)](#), and taking into consideration the report of the [Review Committee regarding amendments to the International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#), the WGIHR will propose a package of amendments for consideration by the 77<sup>th</sup> WHA in May 2024.

#### **Implications and benefits for alignment between the IHR and the FAL Convention**

4 In order to continue to ensure alignment between the FAL Convention and the IHR, Greece deems it necessary to consider any potential amendments to the IMO FAL Convention with respect to the health-related standards and recommended practices that may arise from the WG/IHR process, should the 77<sup>th</sup> WHA decide to amend the IHR (2005) in May 2024.

5 The continued alignment of these two legal instruments will facilitate collaboration of the health and maritime authorities at national and sub-national levels, in order to reduce regulatory burden on maritime traffic while maintaining or further improving health safety and security. It would also promote interoperability of regulatory frameworks and regulatory coherence in the maritime and health interface and establish solid foundations for collaboration between the two sectors, and the organizations involved.

6. Should the IHR (2005) be amended, it is envisaged that a new output to be included in the biennial 2024 – 2025 agenda of the FAL and the provisional Agenda of FAL 49 with a target completion year of 2025 aiming to the alignment of the Annex to the FAL Convention with the new requirements of the IHR.

#### **Action requested of the Committee**

7. The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided and commend as may deem appropriate.

---