



MINISTER Idris GÜLLÜCE
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SENT BY FAX AND E-MAIL

URGENT / RE: Imminent illegal export of GLOBAL SPIRIT from Turkey to India

Dear MINISTER GÜLLÜCE,

19 May 2014

The NGO Shipbreaking Platform alerts with this letter the Turkish government regarding a pending violation of the United Nations Basel Convention controlling the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. We have information confirming that a vehicle carrier named the GLOBAL SPIRIT, currently laid up in the port of Derince, Turkey, and on its way to Golcuk, has been sold for breaking (see information and photo below).

We note that decision VII/26 of the Basel Convention states that *“a ship may become waste as defined in Article 2 of the Basel Convention and that at the same time it may be defined as a ship under other international rule”* and also states: *“recognizing that many ships and other floating structures are known to contain hazardous materials and that such hazardous materials may become hazardous wastes as listed in the annexes to the Basel Convention.”*

Further, that same decision: *“Reminds the Parties to fulfil their obligations under the Basel Convention, where applicable, in particular their obligations with respect to prior informed consent, minimization of transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and the principles of environmentally sound management.”*

We also note that the export of the *GLOBAL SPIRIT* from Turkey to India would constitute a violation of:

- the Basel Ban Amendment, which Turkey has ratified, prohibiting the export of hazardous waste to non-OECD countries for the disposal; and
- the outstanding legal commitments by Turkey arising from the Basel Convention and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

The *GLOBAL SPIRIT* has been sold to Indian breakers and will be broken in Alang under conditions which cause great damage to the workers' health and lives, and the environment. The vessel is expected to contain hazardous materials such as asbestos, refrigerants and mercury within its structure and electronic equipment; operational oily wastes such as sludge and oil residues; and stores including paint tins and heavy cleaning agents.

The evidence of intent to break the ship is found in shipping newspaper Lloyds List on 28 April and shipping websites such as www.equasis.org. We have also been informed that the vessel has been sold for 512 USD LT LDT to Breakers in Alang, India. The owners of the vessel, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Limited (MOL), were offered 380 USD LT LDT by Turkish breakers in Aliaga.

Based on the information supplied above it is incumbent on Turkey to act at once to enforce the Basel Convention and prevent the imminent departure of the vessel *GLOBAL SPIRIT* to a non-OECD country for breaking.

Turkish authorities need to immediately contact the ship and obtain copies of the sales transaction. It is likely orders for departure have been received by crew already, and therefore imperative that Turkey act at once.

Thank you in advance for notifying the NGO Shipbreaking Platform upon receipt of this letter as to what actions will be taken by Turkish authorities to prevent a violation of the Waste Shipment Regulation. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can with supplying necessary information on the case.

Yours Sincerely,



Ingvild Jenssen
NGO Shipbreaking Platform
www.shipbreakingplatform.org

GLOBAL SPIRIT

**CURRENT LOCATION:**

Golcuk, Turkey

DESTINATION:

Alang shipbreaking yards, India

OWNER:

Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Limited (MOL)

SHIP DETAILS:

Name	GLOBAL SPIRIT
IMO number	8517279
Flag	LIBERIA
Type of vessel	VEHICLE CARRIER
Size of vessel GT	47500
Year and place build	1987 - INNOSHIMA
Expected Hazardous Materials onboard	ASBESTOS, OIL RESIDUES, ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

OWNERSHIP DETAILS:

Beneficial owner	Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Limited (MOL) 1-1 Toranomom 2-chome Minato-ku Tokyo 105-8688 , Japan Tel: +81 3 35877015 Fax: +81 3 35877705, + Email: pblmo@mail.mol.co.jp Web: www.mol.co.jp
Commercial operator	MOL Ship Management Company Limited
Registered owner	World Car Carriers Incorporated
Class	Nippon Kaiji Kyokai (NK)

DEMOLITION DETAILS:

Destination	ALANG, INDIA
Price	US\$ 512/LT LDT
Sources	Lloyds List, www.equasis.org