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**Georgia  
and  
Cyprus**

**Agreement between the Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on merchant shipping. Tbilisi, 5 February 2014**

**Entry into force:** *24 May 2014, in accordance with article 23*

**Authentic texts:** *English, Georgian and Greek*

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**Géorgie  
et  
Chypre**

**Accord entre le Gouvernement de la Géorgie et le Gouvernement de la République de Chypre relatif à la marine marchande. Tbilissi, 5 février 2014**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *24 mai 2014, conformément à l'article 23*

**Textes authentiques :** *anglais, géorgien et grec*

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[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA AND  
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS  
ON MERCHANT SHIPPING**

The Government of Georgia and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties";

Desiring to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries and to intensify their economic relations;

Aiming to develop and promote cooperation between Cyprus and Georgia in the field of merchant shipping in accordance with the principles of equality and on a mutually advantageous basis serving their respective needs and objectives for economic development;

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**  
**Definitions**

For the purposes of this Agreement:

- (a) The term "vessel" shall mean any merchant vessel registered in the register of ships of either Contracting Party or flying its national flag under the legislation in force.

This definition excludes warships, auxiliary warships, fishing vessels and other vessels destined or used for non-commercial purposes;

- (b) The term "crew" shall mean all persons, including the master, actually employed under a contract for duties on board a vessel and included in the crew list;

- (c) The term "ports of the Contracting Parties" shall mean seaports, including roadsteads, in the territory of either Contracting Party, which are approved and open to international shipping.

**ARTICLE 2**  
**Application**

The territories of the Contracting Parties to which the present Agreement applies are:

- (a) On the part of Georgia, on the territory of Georgia, and
- (b) On the part of Cyprus, on the territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Areas of Cooperation**

- (1) The Contracting Parties agree:
  - (a) To promote participation of their vessels in the transportation of goods between their countries;
  - (b) To cooperate in eliminating any hindrances which may hamper the development of sea trade between their countries;
  - (c) For the purpose of effectively utilising their vessels, to encourage the participation of their vessels, as far as possible, in the transportation of goods between their countries and to and from third countries;
  - (d) To cooperate for the employment, improvement of conditions of work and for the welfare of their seafarers employed on each other's vessels.
- (2) The provisions of this Article shall not affect the participation of vessels of third countries in the sea trade between the ports of the Contracting Parties.
- (3) In conformity with this Article the shipping enterprises registered and operating in accordance with the legislation in force of either Contracting Party may agree to operate, jointly or separately, liner services as well as to conclude agreements on technical matters related to shipping.

**ARTICLE 4**  
**Treatment of vessels in ports**

- (1) Each Contracting Party shall afford to vessels of the other Contracting 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 cargoes and for embarking and disembarking of passengers, payment of dues and taxes based on the tonnage or otherwise, in accordance with the national legislation, exercising normal commercial operations and use of services related to navigation.
- (2) The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article:
  - (a) Shall not apply to the activities reserved by each of the Contracting Parties for their organizations or enterprises;
  - (b) Shall not oblige a Contracting Party to extend to vessels of the other Contracting Party exemptions from compulsory pilotage requirements granted to its own vessels;

- (c) Shall not affect the regulations concerning entry and stay of foreigners.

#### **ARTICLE 5**

##### **Parallel/bareboat charter registration of ships**

Vessels of the one Contracting Party may be registered in parallel for a specified period of time in the register of ships of the other Contracting Party and fly that Party's flag, provided that the vessel is bareboat chartered by a national of the other Contracting Party or by a corporation registered therein being qualified to own a vessel flying its flag. For such registration the approval of the competent authorities of both Contracting Parties is required and any conditions imposed must be complied with. The vessel will not be deleted from the register of the one Contracting Party and its registration will remain valid as regards ownership and registered mortgages, but its nationality shall be suspended.

#### **ARTICLE 6**

##### **Exchange of information on the registration of vessels**

Upon an application being submitted to the one Contracting Party for the registration of a vessel flying the flag of the other Contracting Party, the first Contracting Party may request to be provided with any available information on the registration and the safety record of the vessel. The other Contracting Party shall respond positively to such request. The first Contracting Party shall not register such vessel permanently in its register without receiving a deletion certificate from the other Contracting Party.

#### **ARTICLE 7**

##### **Prevention of delays**

The Contracting Parties shall adopt, within the limits of their respective national legislation. All appropriate measures to reduce any unnecessary delay of their vessels in ports and to simplify, as far as possible, the carrying out of administrative, customs (in the case of Cyprus) / crossing the economic border (in the case of Georgia) and sanitary formalities applicable in ports.

#### **ARTICLE 8**

##### **Vessel's documents**

- (1) Each of the Contracting Parties shall recognize the nationality of a vessel of the other Contracting Party on the basis of the documents on board that vessel issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party in accordance with its national legislation in force.
- (2) The ship's documents on board, including documents in relation to the tonnage and the crew, issued or recognized by the competent authorities of one Contracting Party shall be accepted by the competent bodies of the other Contracting Party.
- (3) Whenever a change of name or ownership or other particulars of a vessel of one Contracting Party takes place at a port of the other Contracting Party, the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party shall allow the vessel to sail with documents sent by the Register of Ships of the first Contracting Party by facsimile.

**ARTICLE 9**  
**Recognition of identity documents**

- (1) Each of the Contracting Parties shall recognize the identity documents issued by the competent authorities of the other Contracting Party to members of the crew who are nationals of that Contracting Party and shall grant to the holders of such documents the rights provided for in Articles 10 and 11 of the present Agreement under the conditions stipulated therein.
- (2) The identity documents are:

The "Seaman's Book" and the passport issued by the appropriate Georgian Authorities.

The "Seafarer's Identification and Sea Service Record Book" and the "Passport" issued by the appropriate Cypriot authorities.

In case any of the identity documents mentioned in this paragraph is replaced or any new identity document is added, the new name will be notified to the other Contracting Party through diplomatic channels.

- (3) The provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of the present Agreement shall be accordingly applied to any person who is neither a national of Georgia nor a Cypriot but holds identity documents corresponding to the provisions of either the Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic, 1965 and its Annex, or any other applicable international instrument regarding seafarers' identity documents. Such identity documents must be issued by a country which is a party to the relevant instrument and the readmission of the bearer to that country is guaranteed.
- (4) The provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of the present Agreement shall apply, to the extent possible, to any person who is neither a national of Georgia nor a Cypriot and holds an identity document other than that mentioned in paragraph (3) of this Article.

**ARTICLE 10**  
**Seafarer's right to shore leave**

- (1) Holders of the seafarer's identity documents specified in Article 9 of the present Agreement, being members of the crew, as well as the members of their families embarked on the same vessel, are permitted to stay for temporary shore leave, without visa, during the stay of the vessel in a port of the other Contracting Party, provided the master has submitted the list of persons on board the vessel to the appropriate authorities, in accordance with the national legislation in force in that port.
- (2) While landing and returning to the vessel, the persons mentioned above are subject to frontier and customs (in the case of Cyprus)/crossing the economic border (in the case of Georgia) control in force in that port.
- (3) Each of the Contracting Parties reserves the right to deny entry to its territory to persons on board the vessel whom it considers undesirable.