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MARINE DEPARTMENT

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21 November 2023

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers and Ship Masters

Dear Sir / Madam,

Operating VHF channel of Nieuwe Sluis Terneuzen

Communication from the Governments of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

This circular letter draws the attention of shipowners, ship managers and masters of Hong Kong-registered ships to the IMO Circular Letter No.4791 issued on 17 October 2023 about the Communication from the Governments of Belgium and the Kingdom of the Netherlands. A copy of the IMO Circular Letter No.4791 is attached in Annex 1 for reference.

2. From **1 January 2024**, the use of VHF channels for ships using the Kieldrecht lock at the port of Antwerp will change from VHF voice channel 88 to **VHF voice channel 1027 (27L)**.

3. Furthermore, a new lock (New Lock) at the port of Terneuzen alongside the Scheidt river ('Nieuwe Sluis Terneuzen'), adjacent to the existing two locks, is expected to be operational from the fourth quarter of 2024. From **1 October 2024**, ships passing through the New Lock are strongly advised to use the assigned **VHF voice channel 1028 (28L)**, as per decision of the authority. Ships unable to use the VHF voice channel 1028 (28L) will not be allowed to enter the New Lock.

4. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at ss_css@mardep.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(No signature on website)

(R. LIU)

Senior Surveyor of Ship / Cargo Ships Safety Section
Shipping Division, for Director of Marine

Encl.: Annex 1