Safety management of roll-on/roll-off (Ro-ro) passenger ferries

1995/0028(SYN) - 08/12/1995

The Council discussed the results of the conference of the contracting governments to the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) held in London from 20 to 29 November. One of the aims of the Conference was to amend the Convention in order to increase the safety of roll-on roll-off passenger ferries following the Estonia disaster on 28 September 1994. In its Resolution of 22 December 1994 on the safety of roll-on roll-off passenger ferries the Council gave its full support to the work being done under the aegis of the IMO with a view to the amendment of the SOLAS Convention. The Council expressed its general satisfaction on the outcome of the Conference, in particular on the adoption of a resolution defining a framework for the conclusion of regional agreements applying specific requirements to all roll-on roll-off passenger ferries operating regular services between specified ports where shipping and local conditions so require. The Council noted the Swedish Government’s intention of calling a regional conference in January 1996 to establish a regional agreement applicable to roll-on roll-off passenger ferry services in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea . - The Council adopted a Regulation on the safety management of roll-on roll-off passenger ferries, the purpose of which is to render compulsory the advance application, between now and 1 July 1996 for all vessels and companies operating within the Community, of the ISM code established by IMO Assembly resolution A.741(18) on the establishment of an organisation to ensure the safe management of ships.