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**CAPE TOWN AGREEMENT OF 2012 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS  
OF THE TORREMOLINOS PROTOCOL OF 1993 RELATING TO THE TORREMOLINOS  
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS, 1977**

**Accession by Finland**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the Cape Town Agreement of 2012 on the Implementation of the Provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the Torremolinos International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, 1977, and to state that accession by the Republic of Finland was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 18 February 2020.

The instrument of accession by Finland was accompanied by the following declaration:

"As part of a regional arrangement authorised under Article 3(5) of the Torremolinos Protocol, the Republic of Finland is bound by relevant European Union legislation, namely Council Directive 97/70EC of 11 December 1997 setting up a harmonised safety regime for fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over <sup>(1)</sup>. Consequently, the Republic of Finland will apply the provisions of the Torremolinos Protocol regarding safety standards to third country fishing vessels of 24 metres in length and over which operate in its internal or territorial waters or which land catch in one of its ports, subject to the terms laid down in the abovementioned Directive.

Under that regional arrangement, the exemptions provided for in Regulation 1(6) of Chapter I of the Annex to the Cape Town Agreement in relation to annual surveys and in Regulation 3(3) of Chapter I of the Annex thereto concerning a common fishing zone or exclusive economic zone shall not apply to the fishing vessels of the Member State, and to third country fishing vessels of 24 meters in length and over while operating in the depositing Member State's common fishing zone, exclusive economic zone, or landing catch at its ports. Exemptions issued under Regulation 3(3) of Chapter I of the Annex to the Cape Town Agreement, concerning a common fishing zone or an exclusive economic zone, to fishing vessels falling within the scope of application of Regulation 1 of Chapter I of the Annex to the Cape Town Agreement, shall not be accepted.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ L 34, 9.2.1988, p.1."

The condition for entry into force of this Agreement has not yet been fulfilled. Article 4(1) of the Agreement provides as follows:

"1 This Agreement shall enter into force 12 months after the date on which not less than 22 States the aggregate number of whose fishing vessels of 24 m in length and over operating on the high seas is not less than 3,600 have expressed their consent to be bound by it."

There are, at present, 14 Contracting States to the Agreement with an aggregate number of 1433 of fishing vessels of 24 m in length and over operating on the high seas.

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