

2.11 PLACES OF REFUGE

2.11.1 Places of refuge for ships in need of assistance

It is generally recognised that when a ship has suffered an incident, the best way of preventing damage or pollution from its progressive deterioration is to transfer its cargo and bunkers, and to repair the damage. Such an operation is best carried out in a place of refuge (POR), which is a place where a ship in need of assistance can take action to stabilise its condition and reduce the hazards to navigation, and to protect human life and the environment.

The BONN AGREEMENT Contracting Parties have implemented in their national Contingency Plans the [IMO Assembly Resolution A.949\(23\)](#) on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance.

In Europe, the existing measures are contained in the European Community vessel traffic monitoring and information system (Directive 2002/59/EC as amended by [Directive 2009/17/EC](#) (“the VTM Directive”)). Moreover the European Member States under coordination by DG-MOVE have concluded on a set of [EU Guidelines on Places of Refuge](#). These Guidelines were produced following the incident of the MSC FLAMINIA where concerted action was required demanding guided coordination and communication. These draft Guidelines were adopted in November 2015 in Brussels, in close cooperation with many stakeholders from industry, and should be followed by Bonn Agreement Contracting Parties.