EUROPEAN MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION vzw

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Subject : Regretfully Unable to Attend Pilots' Week

Dear President of Derneği Türk Kılavuz Kaptanlar,
Dear Capt. Nildeniz Sütçü Şen,

Once again, many thanks for your kind invitation, keeping EMPA continuously informed of the latest developments in Turkey and for the availability to organize the 59th EMPA GM.

I deeply appreciate the warm gesture and the trust you have placed in me with the invitation to the Pilots' Week and contributions to your fantastic event that will take place next week in Istanbul and Izmir.

It is with sincere regret that I must confirm that this year I will be unable to attend. As you know I am currently facing a serious back problem that unfortunately prevents me from travelling and I will have a surgical intervention next May 15th.

Please know that this decision was not made lightly, as I hold great respect for your association and was truly looking forward to stand alongside you and my Turkish friends and colleagues during this important event.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Turkish Maritime Pilots' Association for your ongoing efforts and resilience in the face of regulatory challenges. The recently published law concerning the safety equipment for pilot boats touches at the very heart of our shared mission: to safeguard the lives of maritime pilots and ensure the highest standards

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of safety in all operations. This issue is not only critical in Turkey but resonates across the entire European pilotage community.

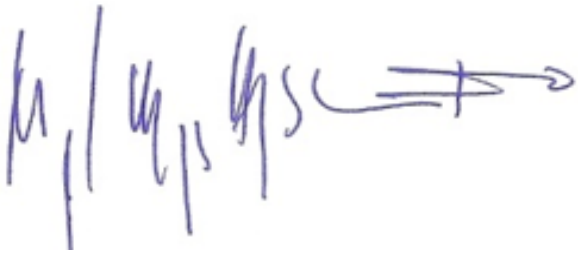
Please also allow me to warmly congratulate you on your candidacy for the position of EMPA Vice President.

I hope the week's events are of a huge success — from honouring our late colleagues to the meaningful exchanges planned with universities and maritime stakeholders, promoting our safety and the excellence of maritime pilotage.

While I cannot be with you in person, please count on my full support from afar.

Wishing you all strength, unity, and safe navigation.

With my warmest regards,



Miguel Vieira de Castro
Senior Vice President
Chairman of the Training and Technical Committee