maritime vessel that is entered in the register of Swiss maritime vessels (Register der Schweizerischen Seeschiffe, registre des navires suisses, registro delle navi marittime svizzere) may operate on the Rhine under the Swiss flag (SR 747.111, Article 8).

Concerning the abovementioned flag-related restrictions, the following states are "accorded equal status to Switzerland":

(a) the Contracting Parties to the Revised Act on Rhine shipping of 17 October 1868;

(b) the Member States of the European Community in which, for the purpose of flying the flag of their state on the Rhine, regulations that are equivalent to those applicable to the Contracting Parties to the Revised Act on Rhine shipping apply (SR 747.111, Article 9).

If more than half of the ship is owned by a natural person, a commercial business, a legal entity or its branch office, it must be domiciled in Switzerland and be a national of Switzerland or of a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland" or it must have its registered office in Switzerland and fulfil the requirements of Articles 11 to 13 of SR 747.111 as stated hereinafter with regard to the majority requirement and participation levels.

If more than half of the ship is owned by more than one natural person, commercial company, legal entity or its branch office, these must be domiciled in Switzerland and be a national of Switzerland or of a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland", or these must have their registered office in Switzerland and fulfil the requirements of Articles 11 to 13 (SR 747.111) as stated hereafter with regard to the majority requirement and participation levels (SR 747.111, Article 10).

If the ship is owned by a commercial business or a legal entity, this commercial business or legal entity must fulfil the following requirements:

(a) two thirds of all company members (partners, general partners, limited partners and other co-partners) must be domiciled in Switzerland or in a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland" and be a national of Switzerland or of a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland" or, if the limited partners or other co-partners are legal entities or commercial businesses, they must be entities from Switzerland or from a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland" (SR 747.111, Article 13). The partners must in addition hold a minimum of two thirds of the capital;

(b) persons from Switzerland or from states "accorded equal status to Switzerland" must hold a minimum of two thirds of the share capital, registered capital or cooperative capital (SR 747.111, Article 13); these persons must also as a minimum hold the same proportion of voting rights;

(c) a minimum of two thirds of all members of an association as well as all members of the committee or any other executive association body must be domiciled in Switzerland or in a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland" and be nationals of Switzerland or of a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland";

(d) all members of the board of governors of a foundation must be domiciled in Switzerland or in a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland" and be nationals of Switzerland or of a state "accorded equal status to Switzerland".

Usufructuaries, secured creditors or persons entitled to any other participation in the business of the ship owner must, if they are in a position to exert a significant