

**Italy** (ratification: 1952)

The Committee notes the information supplied by the Government in response to its previous direct request concerning *Article 4 and Article 5, paragraph 3, of the Convention*. It further notes the adoption of Presidential Decrees Nos. 324 of 9 May 2001 and 305 of 13 October 2003.

*Article 3, paragraph 2 of the Convention*. According to section 9(1) of Presidential Decree No. 324/2001, in circumstances of *exceptional necessity* due to the confirmed unavailability of seafarers possessing the competency certificate required to carry out a particular task, the competent authority may, if in its opinion this does not cause danger to persons, property or the environment, issue at the company's request a dispensation permitting a seafarer in possession of a competency certificate for the immediately inferior grade, to carry out the task for a period not exceeding six months. Section 9(3) provides that such dispensations shall not be granted to a master or chief engineer officer except in circumstances of *force majeure* and then only for the shortest possible period. The Committee would appreciate receiving information on the practical application of this provision, in particular on the number and circumstances of the dispensations granted in case of exceptional necessity to navigating and engineering officers in charge of a watch.