In the UK Parliament’s Lower House (known as the Commons) the Transport Committee announced in mid-December that it is launching a new inquiry into industry and government action in response to the document *Maritime Growth Study*, a report on the UK’s maritime sector, published by the Department for Transport in September 2015.

Mrs Louise Ellman (Labour/Co-operative, Liverpool Riverside) chairs the Committee

*Maritime Growth Study* can be found here:  

This report was the culmination of an in-depth study of the whole UK maritime sector: shipping and ports, and the range of associated business services. It set out a number of recommendations, to the maritime industry and the Government, designed to ensure the UK maintains its status as a world-leading maritime centre, and can take advantage of opportunities for global growth.

It was therefore announced in before the Festive break that the Transport Committee intends to monitor progress towards implementation of the Study’s recommendations, and consider the adequacy of the overall strategy for the UK maritime sector, including in the context of the UK leaving the European Union.

**The inquiry**

From the wide maritime community the Committee has invited written evidence as submissions addressing one or more of the following points:

- Work of the UK maritime industry, and the UK Government, in providing leadership and a coherent vision for the maritime sector as a whole;

- Success to date of actions to increase the commercial focus and culture of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency;

- Success to date of actions to grow the UK Ship Register (otherwise known as the UK Flag);
• Steps taken by the industry and the UK Government to identify and address maritime skills shortages, including the Maritime Skills Investment Fund; maritime apprenticeships; training schemes; and promotion of maritime careers;

• Industry progress towards the development of a single marketing strategy for the UK maritime sector;

• The UK Government’s progress towards the promotion of the maritime sector to inward investors, including through UK Trade and Investment and foreign embassies;

• Industry and UK Government progress towards increasing the competitiveness of UK ports, including through investment in surface access;

• Industry and UK Government support for the UK cruise industry; and

• The adequacy of the overall plan for the UK maritime sector, including in the context of the potential implications of the UK exiting the European Union, and how the strategy may need to evolve.

Submissions may be sent via the Transport Committee’s website at:

Closing date is Friday 24 February 2017.

Picture captions

New experimental statistics presenting findings on civilian search and rescue helicopter (SARH) taskings were announced by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency during 2016.

In mid-2016 the Maritime & Coastguard Agency announced that it had undertaken a review of the way it carries out its ship surveys and inspections.

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