

I assent.

(L.S.)

ANTON BUTTIGIEG
President

24th July, 1981

ACT No. XXVIII of 1981

AN ACT further to amend the Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone Act, 1971.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone (Amendment) Act, 1981, and shall be read and construed as one with the Territorial Waters and Contiguous Zone Act, 1971, hereinafter referred to as “the principal Act”.

Amendment of
section 5 of
the principal
Act.

2. Section 5 of the principal Act shall be re-numbered as section 6.

Addition of
new section to
the principal
Act.

3. Immediately after section 4 of the principal Act there shall be added the following new section:

“Powers to
regulate
the passage
of ships
through
territorial
waters.

5. (1) The Prime Minister may make regulations to control and regulate the passage of ships through the territorial waters of Malta, and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may by such regulations make provision with respect to all or any one or more of the following matters:

(a) the safety of navigation and the regulation of marine traffic, including the designation or establishment of sea lanes and traffic separation schemes to be used or observed for the passage of ships;

(b) the protection of navigational aids and facilities and other facilities or installations;

(c) the protection of cables and pipelines;

(d) the conservation of the living resources of the sea;

(e) the prevention of infringement of any law or regulation relating to fisheries;

(f) the preservation of the environment and the prevention, reduction and control of pollution thereof;

(g) marine scientific research and hydrographic surveys;

(h) the prevention of infringement of any customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws or regulations;

(i) the arrest, detention and seizure of ships to ensure compliance with any law, rule, regulation or order and such other power as may be necessary for securing such compliance;

(j) the punishments, whether by way of fine (*multa* or *ammenda*) or of imprisonment, to be applied in respect of any contravention or non-observance of any regulation made under this section.

(2) In the application of any regulation made under subsection (1) of this section to warships or to nuclear powered ships or to ships carrying nuclear or other inherently dangerous or noxious substances, their passage through territorial waters may, by any such regulation, be made subject to the prior consent of, or prior notification to, such authority as may be specified therein.”

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 526 of the 20th July, 1981.

C. AGIUS
Speaker

C. MIFSUD
Clerk to the House of Representatives