

Press Release

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Pleasure of Eightieth Year of Montreux Convention!

The Montreux Straits Convention which removed the restrictions of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne and secured Turkey's sovereignty over the Straits, celebrated its 80th birthday this year.

The Montreux Straits Convention, which regulates the security of the Black Sea along with the Turkish Straits, is a registration document in which the rights of sovereignty fully acquired. At the same time, Montreux Convention is the highest level treaty of the sovereign rights of Turkey in terms of legal regime in the Turkish Straits.

While the Lausanne Peace Treaty adopted the principle of freedom of movement at sea or in the air at war and peace time, Montreux Straits Convention is reorganized passage through the straits. In this convention, passage through the Turkish Straits is arranged according to vessel types such as merchant vessels, war ships. Furthermore these vessels are subjected to four different types of transition regime and this regime is based on Turkey's situation. These situations can be grouped under four subheads; "In the Time of Peace, In the Time of War (Turkey not being Belligerent)", "In the time of War (Turkey being Belligerent)" and "Situation in which Turkey Considers Itself Threatened with Imminent Danger of War". In the face of these different situations, the right to use the initiative in the Straits also shows that Montreux is a treaty that serves Turkey and considers Turkey's sovereign rights.

In addition to determining the legal status of the Turkish Straits, the Montreux Straits Convention has a separate function that regulates the security of the Black Sea. Since Turkey is the country with the longest coastline among the Black Sea riparian countries, the right of sovereignty over the Black Sea is important for our country. Within the framework of the Montreux, other countries bordering the Black Sea, recognize Turkey's sovereign rights to the region and the convention confirmed Turkey's continental shelf in the Black Sea and its exclusive economic zone. The fact that the right of sovereignty given to Turkey in the Black Sea has not been granted to any other country demonstrates the advantages Turkey has achieved under the Montreux Straits Convention.

This year, Turkey is celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Montreux Straits Convention, in which the sovereignty rights of the Turkish Straits are granted. In this context, many activities are organized and the protection of the Straits and the Black Sea is being discussed.

"We should preserve the Black Sea, while preserving our achievements in Montreux"

In the 80th anniversary of Montreux Straits Convention is a panel was organized on 19 October 2016 by Sarıyer Municipality and TUDAV. Prof. Dr. Bayram OZTURK, Istanbul University Faculty of Fisheries and President of TUDAV, touched on the importance of the declaration of marine protected areas in the entrance opened to the Black Sea by the Istanbul Strait. In addition, OZTURK said that "We should preserve the Black Sea, while preserving our achievements in Montreux". In this way, he emphasized that preserving the successes of the Montreux Convention depends on the protection on the Black Sea.

Turkish Marine Research Foundation:

TUDAV was established in 1997 to protect marine life and to introduce marine culture and love for seas especially to future generations in Turkey. The foundation carry out researches and conservation projects and provide education on marine protection through summer schools and seminars.