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LEGAL OPINION

Broker's commission / Maritime dispute / Jurisdiction of Piraeus Courts

Piraeus Courts are competent to assume any maritime dispute which arises in the region of Attica in Greece.

A broker sued for commissions due, arising from their involvement in concluding a charterparty. The case was brought before the courts of Piraeus, however defendants challenged this, invoking that the dispute arose from work performed onshore and not onboard a vessel, and accordingly Piraeus Courts, under the circumstances, were not competent.

The court assessed the facts and identified that, although the work was performed in the office, it nevertheless required analysis of the freights / commodities transport market, both in domestic and international level, aiming to find opportunities of profitable deals related to the chartering of a vessel.

In view of this, the dispute was considered as a maritime one, thus falling within the jurisdiction of Piraeus Courts.

Piraeus One-membered Court of Appeal Judgment no 150/2019, judge: A. Anastasiou, Attorneys at law: N. Pitsinos, El. Kaloyianni-Kontosea, Maritime Law Review vol. 47, p. 170.

NOTE: The notion of "maritime dispute" is, under this above judgment, wide enough to encompass cases related to shipping, even if the tasks of the parties involved in the deal are not performed onboard.

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