

# NEWSFRONT

## GREEK SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE

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### LEGAL OPINION

#### Salvage - Towage

A yacht grounded on a reef and lost automotive power. No sinking peril was caused as the small quantity of water penetrating the vessel was pumped back into the sea by the yacht's pumps. Further, the weather was good. The master sought assistance sending out an SOS, mainly due to the fact one of the passengers on board was a Portuguese ambassador.

Two vessels approached the yacht and towed it, until it was beached. Thereafter, divers repaired the damage and stopped the water penetration and yacht was finally transported to a yard for repairs.

The towing vessel sought salvage remuneration. The court found that, no peril was present and if it was, it was manageable by the yacht's crew and passengers.

In view of this, the services rendered were not held to be salvage but towage, and the claim was rejected.

Piraeus One membered Court of Appeal Judgment no 378/2017, Judge: A. Theofanis, Attorneys at law: B. Zambeli, A. Koutsoukou, A. Eleftheriou, Maritime Law Review vol. 45, p. 113.

NOTE: The case arose because the master sent an SOS message. However, no adverse circumstances were present, so the mere fact an SOS was sent was not enough for the salvage claim to be founded.

*This legal column was written by Manolis Eglezos, Attorney at law,  
Manolis Eglezos & Associates Law Firm, Attorneys at Law and Consultants*