1. Are the Courts in your jurisdiction open and functioning as per normal?

Actually, the Courts in Turkey are open; however, they are not functioning as per normal. All times stipulated under civil law were suspended as of 13.03.2020 until 30.04.2020. All civil court hearings which were fixed to be held before 30.04.2020 were adjourned to a further date.

1. If not, are there any exceptions to the arrest of ships and / or are other injunctive or enforcement procedures available?

It is possible for any Claimant to apply to the Court in order to claim arrest of a ship, however even if the Claimant receives an arrest order, it cannot be enforced now, since enforcement of all precautionary attachment/arrest orders were suspended as of 22.03.2020 until 30.04.2020.

1. Can Judicial Sale of Ships still take place?

Judicial sale of ships cannot take place since all execution proceedings were suspended as of 22.03.2020 until 30.04.2020.

1. Do you know how long the Courts in your jurisdiction will be closed for?

As stated above, Courts in Turkey are not closed, but most of the proceedings, except the urgent matters, were suspended until 30.04.2020. However, if the pandemic continues, the President may extend this period of suspension.

1. Is the flag registry in your jurisdiction (if applicable) operating as per normal in terms of the registration of ships and registration of mortgages and deletion of same.

There has been no official order given for this, however Flag Registry does not accept applications for registration of ships, mortgages or deletion of same for the reason of few personnel remained on duty due to corona virus outbreak. The Flag Registry informed that they would commence to accept applications as of the beginning of May. However, if the pandemic continues, this period may extend.

1. Has your flag administration issued any special exemptions for the period of the Pandemic?

The Turkish Ministry of Transport has issued several Circulars to take measures for corona virus outbreak. With regards to special exemptions; please note that the pre-survey inspections of the Turkish flagged vessels ordered to be carried out at 6 months for the vessels whose personnel appointed ashore had already awareness education from the Ministry, and at 3 months for the other vessels. In addition, the Port State Control applications for the foreign flagged vessels were suspended until 30.04.2020.