

## Investigation Report 160/17

**Date: 25 October 2018**

**Less serious marine casualty**

**Line accident with minor physical injury on board the traditional ship WISSEMARA at 1400 on 24 May 2017 in the port of Wismar**

### 1 Summary

The traditional ship WISSEMARA is a replica of a 14th century cog. She was built and is operated by Förderverein Poeler Kogge e.V., a Wismar-based friends' association. Day trips are regularly organized for interested visitors from all over the world.

One such day trip ended at about 1400 on 24 May 2017 with the seasoned berthing manoeuvre in the port of Wismar. This involved turning on the turning basin, so as to approach the pier sternward. The stern line was the first line to be passed ashore and made fast. While steaming in this line, an unexpected gust of wind occurred. Despite bow thruster, this gust turned the ship so far away from the pier that the load on the line became excessive. However, rather than the line parting, the wooden cleat that held the line on board broke.

Despite the crew members making repeated requests beforehand, one passenger failed to follow all the other passengers out of the danger area on the berthing side. She sat so close to the cleat that she was struck by flying wooden splinters and sustained minor injuries.

She was taken to hospital as a precaution after berthing. The injuries were only minor and she could be discharged after outpatient treatment, however.

Splinters also struck the leg of a crew member. These injuries did not require any complex medical treatment, either.

### 2 Safety Recommendations

The following safety recommendations do not attribute a presumption of blame or liability in respect of type, number or sequence.

#### 2.1 Operator of the WISSEMARA: Förderverein Poeler Kogge e.V. – cleats

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the Förderverein Poeler Kogge e.V. promptly replace all wooden cleats used when making fast with metal cleats with a higher holding force.

#### 2.2 Operator of the WISSEMARA: Förderverein Poeler Kogge e.V. – lines

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the Förderverein Poeler Kogge e.V. inspect loaded mooring lines critically and renew them in cases of doubt.