

Art. 976. (Preference of creditors.) Articles 968 to 970 shall apply to the order of creditors on the limited amount. However, the compensation for damages to persons shall not exceed five million two hundred thousand liras for each person.

Art. 977. (Exclusion from limitation.) The provisions of letter (a) and (b) of Article 971 shall apply as to causes for exclusion from the limitation.

Art. 978. (Damages to third persons on the ground caused by collision.) In the cases provided for in Article 974, when third persons have been injured on the ground, the carriers shall be jointly liable, even when the injuries were caused by an Act of God.

The compensation shall be divided between the carriers according to the seriousness of the negligence committed respectively by the carriers or by their employees or agents in relationship to the consequences of such negligence; or it shall be divided in equal parts if the damage was caused by an Act of God, or if given the circumstances, it is not possible to ascertain the existence of the negligence or the gravity of the respective negligence and the relative consequences.

Art. 979. (Debarrment from action of recourse.) A carrier shall lose the right of appeal against the other person obligated if he does not notify him within three months of the claim submitted to him by the damaged party.

This right shall expire one year from the day of payment of compensation to the damaged party.

Art. 980. (Limitation of debt in relationship to carriers.) The limits provided for in Article 975 shall apply also in regard to carriers jointly liable under Articles 484 and 978.

TITLE THREE—ASSISTANCE, SALVAGE AND FINDING OF WRECKS

CHAPTER I. ASSISTANCE AND SALVAGE (RESCUE)

Art. 981. (Duty to assist ships and aircraft in danger.) Assistance to ships or aircraft on the sea or inland waters, which are in danger of being wrecked, or to an aircraft crashed or grounded in a desert area shall be compulsory to the extent that it does not jeopardize the safety of the assisting aircraft, its crew and passengers, except in the case provided for in Articles 485 and 974, when persons on board the ship or the aircraft are in danger.

An aircraft commander who, during the voyage or when ready for departure, receives news of the danger to a ship or an aircraft shall be bound under the aforementioned circumstances and limitations to rush to render assistance when he can reasonably foresee a useful result, unless he is informed that such assistance is being given by others under more suitable, or conditions similar to those under which he himself could render it.

Art. 982. (Duty to rescue and help persons in danger.) When a vessel or aircraft in danger is totally unable, respectively, to sail or take flight, the commander of the assisting aircraft shall, under the circumstances within the limits indicated in the preceding article, attempt rescue and when this is impossible, assist the persons.

Equally, he shall be duty bound, within the same limitations, to attempt to rescue or give assistance to persons who are in danger of being lost at sea or on inland waters.