The necessity to guarantee safety of transportation in the seas and oceans of the world and to protect the environment, becomes more and more pressing in a progressively globalized and interconnected international community. In this context, European Union policy on maritime transport grows of importance. Although started in 1979, it was subsequently expanded and progressively strengthened by the Erika I, II and III Maritime Safety Packages and by other measures adopted after the sinking of the Prestige oil tanker. But, at an international level, European legislation on maritime safety often competes with regulation issued by international organizations such as International Maritime Organization (IMO) and with international conventions. This creates the complex problem of the relationship between international and European law, and the necessity of an appeal to the European Court of Justice or to other international courts.