

Press release

30 May 2016

PARIS MOU AGREES ON A CONCENTRATED INSPECTION CAMPAIGN ON MARPOL ANNEX VI IN 2018

The Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MoU) held its 49th Committee meeting in Haugesund, Norway. Mr. Brian Hogan chaired the meeting, held from 23 - 27 May 2016. The meeting was officially opened by the State Secretary Mrs. Dilek Ayhan of Norway.

High importance was given to the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on MLC, 2006 which is scheduled from September to November this year. Living and working conditions for seafarers continue to be a priority.

The Committee recognized the importance of the IMO requirements for stricter limits on air pollution from ships and this has led to the decision to have a CIC on MARPOL Annex VI in 2018.

Secretary General Richard Schiferli expressed the view of the Committee that this decision demonstrated the importance to the Paris MoU of environmental awareness and compliance, especially regarding prevention of air pollution from ships.

The current methodology of calculation of Flag performance has been reviewed by the Committee. The Committee has instructed a Task Force to present detailed views and criteria on a possible future methodology of Flag performance, taking into account transparency and statistical fair treatment to any Flag.

Another important subject has been the discussion on the recognized organization (RO) responsibility that resulted in the decision to carry out a fundamental review on the approach to assigning RO responsibility in the framework of the Paris MoU.

The report of the CIC on Crew Familiarisation on Enclosed Space Entry, carried out in September to November of 2015, was discussed at PSCC49. Although the results showed a good level of compliance the Committee agreed that both flag

States and industry should continue to pay attention to the correct execution of enclosed space entry drills. The results will be published and submitted to the IMO.

The Committee adopted the 2015 Annual Report, including the new White, Grey and Black List and the performance list of Recognized Organizations. The lists will be published in early June and used for targeting purposes starting 1 July 2016. The number of ships which are refused access to the region after multiple detentions is declining. The Annual Report will be published by the end of July this year.

Canada informed the Committee that they will host the 3rd Joint Ministerial Conference in Vancouver on 3 and 4 May 2017 and all Ministers responsible for port State control in the Paris and Tokyo MoU region have been invited.

The meeting was attended by members of the Paris MoU, the European Commission, EMSA, Montenegro, observers from the International Labour Organization, US Coast Guard, Tokyo MoU, Caribbean MoU, Mediterranean MoU, Indian Ocean MoU and Black Sea MoU.

On behalf of the member States, Mr. Hogan concluded the meeting by remarking that significant progress has been made on port State control issues during this meeting. He thanked all member States, the European Commission, EMSA and the Paris MoU Secretariat for their contribution. In particular Mr. Hogan thanked the Norwegian Maritime Authority, for the excellent arrangements they made for this Committee meeting.

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Notes to editors:

Regional Port State Control was initiated in 1982 when fourteen European countries agreed to coordinate their port State inspection effort under a voluntary agreement known as the Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MOU). Currently 27 countries are member of the Paris MOU. The European Commission, although not a signatory to the Paris MOU, is also a member of the Committee.

The Paris MoU is supported by a central database THETIS hosted and operated by the European Maritime Safety Agency in Lisbon. Inspection results are available for search and daily updating by MoU Members. Inspection results can be consulted on the Paris MoU public website and are published on the Equasis website.

The Secretariat of the MoU is provided by the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and located in The Hague.

Port State Control is a check on visiting foreign ships to verify their compliance with international rules on safety, pollution prevention and seafarers living and working conditions. It is a means of enforcing compliance in cases where the owner and flag State have failed in their responsibility to implement or ensure compliance. The port State can require defects to be put right, and detain the ship for this purpose if necessary. It is therefore also a port State's defence against visiting substandard shipping.