

Press release

20 May 2019

THE PARIS MOU HOLDS 52ND COMMITTEE MEETING IN ST. PETERSBURG

The Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (Paris MoU) held its 52nd Committee meeting in St. Petersburg, the Russian Federation, from 13-17 May 2019, chaired by Mr. Brian Hogan. The meeting was opened by Mr. Yuri Kostin, Director of Department on State Policy on Maritime and River Transport, Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation.

The Committee reviewed the work of the Paris MoU of the last year, also taking into account the declaration of the 3rd Joint Ministerial Conference, and took decisions for the period ahead.

The Committee considered the report of the Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC) on MARPOL Annex VI. The CIC was carried out from September to November 2018. The general conclusion was that the overall compliance with MARPOL Annex VI was satisfactory. The Committee reminds the industry to ensure that a fuel change-over procedure is provided on board and used as required and that bunker delivery notes are kept on board for a minimum of three years.

The Committee approved the questionnaire for the CIC on Emergency Systems and Procedures to be carried out jointly with the Tokyo Memorandum of Understanding on port state control. The CIC aims at ensuring compliance with the requirements for the preparation of emergency equipment and the crew's ability to respond to emergency situations. The CIC will be carried out from September to November 2019 and the questionnaire will be published in August.

The Committee discussed the issue of access to PSC data by third parties and agreed this would require further consideration at the next Committee meeting. The Committee reconfirmed that inspection data on individual ships continues to be available on the Paris MoU website.

The Committee adopted the 2018 Annual Report, including the White, Grey and Black List and the performance list of recognised organizations. The lists will be published in early June and used for targeting purposes from 1 July 2019. The Annual Report will be published in July this year. The Committee took note of a considerable decrease in the number of ships which have been detained in the Paris MoU region, reducing the detention percentage from 3.87% in 2017 to 3.15% in 2018.

Decisions were taken on a new methodology to calculate flag state performance based on the average detention rate and recognised organization (RO) fleet performance based on detainable deficiencies. When the new methodology is implemented, performance tables will be listed alphabetically and categorized as high, medium and low performance.

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

On behalf of the Maritime Authorities, 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 Authorities, the European Commission, EMSA, the Paris MoU Secretariat and the observers for their contribution. In particular Mr. Hogan thanked the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation, Federal Agency on Maritime and River Transport and the Administration of the Baltic sea ports for the excellent arrangements they made for this Committee meeting in St. Petersburg.

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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 Water Management 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 deficiencies to be corrected, and detain the ship for this purpose, if necessary. It is therefore also a port State's defence against visiting substandard shipping.