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Press release

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STARTING 17 SEPTEMBER PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS WILL VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH THE ANTI-FOULING SYSTEMS ON SHIPS CONVENTION (AFS 2001)

The Paris MoU Committee decided in May 2008 that the new requirements of the AFS Convention should be enforced by port States in the region. For this purpose the Paris MOU has developed specific guidelines for assessment of AFS compliance.

Inspections will focus on, but are not limited to, the following elements:

- Check validity of the International AFS Certificate or Declaration on Anti-Fouling System, and the attached Record of Anti-Fouling Systems, if appropriate.
- For ships of Non-Parties to AFS 2001 verify that the AFS complies with the requirements of the Convention.
- Some ships may not be certified until 2010. However these ships will need to comply with applicable requirements of the AFS convention.

Deficiencies in this documentation will be considered as clear grounds for a more detailed inspection which may include sampling and analysis of the ship's Anti-Fouling System if necessary to establish whether or not the ship complies with the AFS Convention.

For more information on the Paris MOU on Port State Control please consult our Internet Website on the following address:

www.parismou.org

Notes to editors:

Port State Control is a check on visiting foreign ships to see that they comply with international rules on safety, pollution prevention and seafarers living and working conditions. It is a means of enforcing compliance 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.

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

Inspection reports are recorded on a central database SIRENaC located in St Malo - France, available for search and daily updating by MoU member countries. Inspection results can be viewed on the Paris MoU public website and are also provided to the Equasis public database.

The Secretariat of the MoU is provided by the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public works and Water Management and located in The Hague.

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