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INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CIVIL LIABILITY FOR BUNKER OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE, 2001

Accession by Luxembourg, Greece, Singapore, Estonia, Croatia, Poland and Bulgaria

Ratification by the United Kingdom and Germany

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001, and to state that, in accordance with article 12, accession by the following States was effected by the deposit of instruments on the dates indicated:

	Date of deposit of instrument
The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	21 November 2005
The Hellenic Republic	22 December 2005
The Republic of Singapore	31 March 2006
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	29 June 2006
The Republic of Estonia	5 October 2006
The Republic of Croatia	15 December 2006
The Republic of Poland	15 December 2006
The Federal Republic of Germany	24 April 2007
The Republic of Bulgaria	6 July 2007

The instrument of accession of Luxembourg was accompanied by the following declaration:

“Luxembourg, being subject to Community regulations on these matters in its mutual relations with the Member States of the European Community, will apply the Community regulations concerning jurisdiction to the extent that the pollution damage occurs in a geographical zone, as specified in article 2 of the Convention, belonging to a Member State of the European Community, and that the defendant is domiciled in a Member State of the European Community.

Judgements as specified in article 10, paragraph 1 of the Convention, when given by a court of a Member State of the European Community, will be recognized and enforced in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in accordance with the Community regulations.”

The instrument of ratification of the United Kingdom was accompanied by the following Declaration:

“Judgements on matters covered by the Convention shall, when given by a court of Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain or Sweden, be recognized and enforced in the United Kingdom according to the relevant internal Community rules on the subject.”

The instrument of accession of Estonia contained the following declaration:

- “1 Judgements on matters covered by the Convention shall, when given by a court of a Member State of the European Union, except the court of Denmark, be recognized and enforced in the Republic of Estonia according to the relevant European Community rules on the subject.
- 2 Based on article 7, paragraph 15, of the Convention, article 7 does not apply to ships operating exclusively within the waters of the Republic of Estonia.”

The instrument of ratification of Germany was accompanied by the following declarations:

- “(1) Judgments on matters covered by the Convention shall, when given by a court of the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Hungary, Ireland, the Republic of Italy, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of Sweden or the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, be recognized and enforced in the Federal Republic of Germany according to the relevant internal Community rules on the subject (currently found *inter alia* in Council Regulation (EC) No. 44/2201 of 22 December 2000 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (OJ L 12 of 16 January 2001, p. 1 ff); and
- (2) This ratification takes place in accordance with the EU Council Decision of 19 September 2002 authorizing the Member States, in the interest of the Community, to sign, ratify or accede to the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001 (the Bunkers Convention).”

The instrument of accession of Bulgaria contained the following declaration:

“Judgements on matters covered by the Convention shall, when given by a court in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Ireland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Austria, Finland, Sweden, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Romania, be recognized and enforced in Bulgaria according to the relevant internal Community rules on the subject.”

Article 14 of the Convention provides as follows:

“(1) This Convention shall enter into force one year following the date on which eighteen States, including five States each with ships whose combined gross tonnage is not less than 1 million, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval or have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession with the Secretary-General.”

There are, at present, sixteen Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 15.76% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.
