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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL
AND MANAGEMENT OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER
AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

Approval by the Netherlands

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, and to state that approval by the Kingdom of the Netherlands was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 10 May 2010.

The instrument of approval of the Netherlands was accompanied by the following declaration:

"In accordance with Assembly resolution A.1005(25), adopted on 29 November 2007, concerning the application of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, under paragraph 2, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, for the Kingdom in Europe, declares that it will apply the Convention on the basis of the understanding that a ship subject to regulation B-3.3 constructed in 2009 will not be required to comply with regulation D-2 until its second annual survey, but no later than 31 December 2011."

Article 18 of the Convention provides as follows:

"1. This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than thirty States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than thirty-five per cent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with Article 17."

There are, at present, twenty-five Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately 24.28%* of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.

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This tonnage percentage is based on world tonnage figures provided by Lloyd's Register/Fairplay, effective as of 31 December 2009.