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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE CONTROL OF HARMFUL
ANTI-FOULING SYSTEMS ON SHIPS, 2001**

Accession by Latvia

Ratification by Sweden

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, and to state that, in accordance with article 17 of the Convention, accession by the Republic of Latvia and ratification by the Kingdom of Sweden was effected by deposit of instruments on 9 December 2003 and 10 December 2003, respectively.

Article 18 provides as follows:

- “(1) This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than twenty-five States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than twenty-five percent 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, seven Contracting States to the Convention.
