

SECOND JOINT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE PARIS AND TOKYO MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING ON PORT STATE CONTROL

"STRENGTHENING THE CIRCLE OF RESPONSIBILITY" INTER-REGIONAL ACTION TO ELIMINATE SUB-STANDARD SHIPPING

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA CANADA NOVEMBER 2-3, 2004

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE







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OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE

Opening Address by the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Louis Ranger, Deputy Minister for Transport for Canada, on behalf of the Honourable Jean-C. Lapierre, Minister of Transport for Canada

Honourable ministers and delegates, ladies and gentlemen, good morning and welcome to the second Joint Ministerial Conference of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control.

I am pleased to be here today to host this important conference. Allow me to begin by apologizing on behalf of the Minister of Transport Jean Lapierre, who regrettably is not able to join us as host. I am sure he would have preferred to be in Vancouver with you to exchange views and experiences. However, he had to stay in Ottawa to attend to Parliamentary business.

It was six-and-a-half years ago that Canada hosted the first Joint Ministerial Conference on the Paris and Tokyo MOUs. I am proud that we have been able to invite you back again to reconfirm our common commitment to eliminating sub-standard shipping around the world. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new MOU members who have joined us in this campaign.

It's appropriate that Vancouver is the site of this Conference. In this city Canada has a world-class port that exemplifies the objectives of port State control. I will talk a little bit later about Canada's contribution to this work and I look forward to hearing your individual presentations over the next two days.

Before I go any further, I would like to point out that I am wearing two hats here - first as host of the Conference, and second as a Canadian delegate. As host, let me now perform my first act and declare the Conference officially open. With that done, I would like to propose that we officially adopt the Conference agenda. My team and I are committed to carrying out the measures adopted at this conference to help eliminate sub-standard shipping.