

Foreword

The growing effectiveness of Port State Control (PSC) as one of the key mechanisms in monitoring and eliminating sub-standard shipping was demonstrated again in 2004 by the results outlined in this annual report.

Security is of paramount importance to the shipping industry and to those working in it. For that reason, Transport Canada (TC) Marine Safety focused its efforts on that area throughout the past year. In conjunction with the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) on Port State Control, TC Marine Safety participated in drafting and implementing important guidelines on marine security for Port State Control Officers.


As well, TC Marine Safety worked closely with the department's Marine Security group in the development and signing in 2004 of a MOU regarding maritime security.

During 2004, Canada continued its preparatory work on the Second Joint Ministerial Conference of the Paris and Tokyo Memoranda of Understanding on Port State Control with Paris and Tokyo MOU members by hosting four meetings. The international conference took place on November 2 and 3, 2004, in Vancouver, British Columbia,

and was chaired by Canada. This was the second time that Canada brought together member countries of the Paris and Tokyo MOUs as well as observer States and international marine-related organizations. The first such conference was held in March 1998.

The Ministerial Declaration signed at the conference detailed new measures to be implemented by Administrations in their continuing efforts to eliminate sub-standard ships worldwide. The declaration focused on the development and implementation of standards promoting a wider safety and security culture throughout the entire maritime industry, to protect the global marine environment, and to safeguard crews with respect to their living and working conditions on board ships.

The decisions taken by the Ministers during the conference provided clear direction for future actions and set new goals for the two MOUs. TC Marine Safety looks forward to working with the MOUs in addressing the various actions that were defined in the Ministerial Declaration, and believes this work will increase the effectiveness of PSC regimes around the world.



Gerard McDonald
Director General, Marine Safety