

International Ship Recycling Association

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Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Press Release - Ratification of the Hong Kong Convention (HKC)

International Ship Recycling Association (ISRA) would like to express its appreciation of the recent ratification by Bangladesh and Liberia of the Hong Kong Convention which was adopted in 2009. Following this ratification the criteria for the convention to enter into force in June 2025 have now been met.

Whilst ISRA welcomes the new developments it remains concerned over the effectiveness of the HKC-regime which in the past decade has been unable to sufficiently motivate practitioners of substandard recycling to significantly improve their standards. The majority of the world fleet still ends up at substandard facilities in South Asia exposing both the involved authorities and other stakeholders who bear the responsibility to ensure a safe and proper recycling of ships and waste

Commenting on the developments Dr. Konstantinos Galanis, Chairman of ISRA urges the Ship recycling industry and the legislators to use the upcoming two years to further adjust the HKC-regime. "This long voyage which started with the adoption of the convention 14 years ago is far from being completed. We need to continue working on a strict and internationally (independently) controlled and enforced regime that will provide the necessary standards to ensure safe and environmentally sound ship recycling."

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Note for editors (background)

The Hong Kong Convention is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment. The HKC covers the design, construction, operation, and preparation of ships to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling without compromising the safety and operational efficiency of ships; the operation of ship recycling facilities in a safe and environmentally sound manner; and the establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism for ship recycling, incorporating certification and reporting requirements.

Upon entry into force, ships to be recycled will be required to carry an Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM), which will be specific to each ship.

European Ship Recycling Regulation (EUSRR) enforcement took place on 20 November 2013. EUSRR provides a holistic approach including the downstream waste management and has a sufficient number of already approved ship recycling facilities as members with several being audited and inspected not only by the EU member states but also from DNV (IACS member) experts in safety, hazardous waste management and environment. ISRA believes that efforts from all actors have to be in timely place for a level playing field as still most of the global fleet ends up in substandard facilities, especially in South Asia.

Dr. Konstantinos Galanis

Chairman, ISRA