

X-From_: nifs-hns-owner@jus.uio.no Fri Dec 12 21:44:56 2003
 Envelope-to: Erik.rosag@jus.uio.no
 X-Mailer: Novell GroupWise Internet Agent 6.0.3
 Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2003 16:00:34 +0000
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 Subject: HNS Correspondence Group (IMO Legal Committee):UK position towards implementation of the HNS Convention
 Sender: nifs-hns-owner@jus.uio.no
 X-BeenThere: nifs-hns@jus.uio.no
 X-Mailman-Version: 1.2 (experimental)
 List-Id: a mailing list on the HNS Convention <nifs-hns.jus.uio.no>
 X-MailScanner-Information: This message has been scanned for viruses/spam. Contact postmaster@uio.no if you have questions about this scanning
 X-UiO-MailScanner: No virus found
 X-UiO-Spam-info: not spam, SpamAssassin (score=-2.962, required 12, BAYES_00 -4.90, HTML_MESSAGE 0.10, MIME_MISSING_BOUNDARY 1.84)

Dear Colleagues,

Please see the attached correspondence from John Wren.

The letter details the UK's current public consultation on the implementation of the HNS Convention and seeks an update of Member States' efforts towards implementation for inclusion in a report to LEG 88.

Kind regards,

Clare Boam
 Shipping Policy 1a
 UK Department for Transport
 020 7944 5444

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12 December 2003

Dear Colleague

UK Position towards implementation of the HNS Convention

You will wish to note that the UK has just published its formal public consultation paper on the national implementation of the HNS Convention. Subject to a successful outcome to this consultation and the approval of our Parliament, the intention is to ratify during 2004.

The consultation document initiates the first part a two-stage consultation process. The document just issued sets out the proposal that the UK should now ratify and the principles to be applied in the national regulations to implement the Convention into UK law. These follow the 'model' agreed at Ottawa and endorsed at LEG 87. The second stage will be undertaken early in 2004 and will focus on the proposed national regulations and the proposals UK reporting system to meet specific the treaty obligations.

If Correspondence Group members would like a printed copy of the consultation paper please let me know, alternatively the document can be found on the our Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_control/documents/contentservertemplate/dft_index.hcst?n=9352&l=2

The Correspondence Group has previously reported on progress on implementation to the 86th session of the IMO Legal Committee. Whilst the core work of the Group was completed at LEG 87, we are expected to continue to provide further reports to up date the Committee. I would, therefore, be grateful to receive - **by Friday 30 January 2004** - details of any implementation efforts that you are undertaking which can be included in the report which to the LEG 88th session in April 2004.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season and all the best for 2004.

Yours sincerely,

John Wren