

IAPH calls for faster conventions ratification

Sandra Speares - Friday 2 May 2008

THE International Association of Ports and Harbours has used its annual meeting in Dunkirk to call for the early ratification of international conventions, writes Sandra Speares.

It is concerned over the relatively slow ratification process for the hazardous and noxious substances, the bunker oil pollution and the wreck removal conventions.

It also wants to see early ratification of the 1996 protocols to the limitation of liability for marine claims convention.

The IAPH unanimously adopted a resolution on the issue at its AGM.

“These IMO conventions are essential for reinforcing the liability and compensation framework concerning maritime and environmental damages resulting from maritime accidents,” IAPH legal committee chairman Frans van Zoelen said.

“These subjects are of importance for coastal states and ports.

“The said conventions also play a significant role to assist coastal states and ports to cope with ships in distress.”

While the bunker convention will enter into force in November this year, ratification of the HNS convention has proved to be more of a problem.

In March this year, Estonia was the first signatory of the wreck removal convention, following its adoption last year.

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