



Press Release

THE CARIBBEAN MOU WELCOMES ITS 18TH MEMBER STATE

The Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control¹ (CMOU) held its 23rd Committee meeting in Grand Cayman, The Cayman Islands from the 27th – 29th of June 2018, hosted by the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands (MACI). During this meeting, the Committee unanimously approved the application of Bermuda to be a full Member of the CMOU.

The meeting was attended by thirteen of the seventeen member States and the observer State of Haiti. In addition, the Regional Maritime Advisor of the IMO, the General Secretary of the PMOU and representatives from the United States Coast Guard were in attendance.



¹ Port State Control is a check on visiting foreign ships to see that they comply with international rules on safety, pollution prevention and seafarers living and working conditions. It is a means of enforcing compliance where the owner and flag State have failed in their responsibility to implement or ensure compliance. The Caribbean MOU was signed in 1996 in Barbados and now has a complement of 17 Member States (Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, France, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, the Netherlands, St. Christopher and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago) and one Associate Member (St. Vincent & the Grenadines).

Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, the outgoing Chairman of the CMOU and representative of Antigua and Barbuda, stated that “The continued addition of new members to the CMOU will certainly assist in moving forward in our development and will certainly assist in harmonizing our efforts throughout the region. We look forward to welcoming more territories in the not too distant future.”

In addition, the CPSCC 23 approved the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007 (NAIROBI WRC 2007) as a relevant instrument of the CMOU. It was felt that due to the numerous groundings occurring in the Caribbean and that currently seven (7) Member States of the CMOU have already ratified this convention, it will make it possible for these countries to enforce and write deficiencies during the port State control inspections were applicable. Member States were then encouraged to ratify this convention in the near future.

The Technical Standing Working Group (TSWG) of the CMOU presented to the Committee and received approval of the revised CMOU Technical Manual; Continued Professional Development Scheme (CPDS) and Competence Card for PSC Officers; Amendments to the MOU; Guidelines of the SCV Code; the revised CMOU Targeting Matrix; Guidelines for the IGF Code; Guidelines on the BWM Convention and the revision to the CCSS Code.

Members were advised of the successful staging of the 10th Annual Port State Control Seminar in Brokopondo, Suriname. Participants were provided with basic training on the major conventions; the Ballast Water Convention (New relevant instrument); PSCO Inspection Procedures and the CMIS Database. PSCOs participated in practical inspections on a container vessel and a bulk carrier. Following the seminar, two days of on-the-job training were held in Paramaribo, with specific emphasis places on the regional vessels and the Caribbean small vessel codes. Expressions of appreciation were given to the Maritime Authority of Suriname for hosting the event and to Tsunami Maritime and the M/V Freewinds for providing lecturers for the seminar.

The Committee adopted the 2017 Annual Report including the overview of the activities of the CMOU for the period and the statistics including inspections totaling 769, deficiencies reported totaling 1321 and 10 detentions. With respect to categories of deficiencies, Fire Safety Measures had the highest percent of total deficiencies at 18.39% followed by Life Saving Appliances at 17.31%. The complete report is available on the CMOU’s website.²

In addition, elections were held for the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman, as the incumbent Chairman advised that he was stepping down. These elections took place via secret ballot with Mr. Michel Amafo of Suriname being elected as Chairman of the CPSCC for a period of three years. As there was only one nominee from the Cayman Islands for Vice Chairman, Mr. Joel Walton was elected by acclamation as Vice Chairman of the CPSCC for a period of three years.

The CPSCC 24 meeting will be held in in June of 2019 at a location to be agreed on.

² www.caribbeanmou.org

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For more information on the Caribbean MoU on Port State Control please consult our Internet Website on the following address: www.caribbeanmou.org