



Ministry of Infrastructure
and Water Management

HNS Convention - State of play in NL

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Context



- Renewed sense of urgency to ratify HNS Convention following:
 - Broader call internationally to, after 8 years, step up efforts;
 - Ratification by Norway as first country (*21 April 2017*);
 - Adoption of EU Council Decision, in which EU Member States are called upon to ratify the HNS Convention within a reasonable time and, if possible, by 6 May 2021 (*25 April 2017*).



Dutch perspective



- NL fully supports the 2010 HNS Convention, signed the 2010 HNS Protocol in 2011 and intends to ratify it as soon as possible;
- It is estimated that NL receives about 20 million tons of HNS contributing cargo annually;
- The creation of a mechanism for compensation of damage and costs of cleanup are considered to be important by most Dutch stakeholders; however, there is also a call to minimize administrative burdens;
- Ratification should be done simultaneously and in co-ordinated way with other countries in the Hamburg-Le Havre Range.



Hamburg – Le Havre Range





State of play

- Necessary national legislative proposals, which include reporting requirements, are already at an advanced stage;
- Involved Ministries already reached an agreement about their responsibilities regarding the reporting requirements, as soon as the HNS Convention enters into force;
- Contacts with relevant stakeholders in NL are ongoing to maintain/create support for the HNS Convention.





Outlook activities in 2018 and beyond

- Hold discussions with other countries in the Hamburg – Le Havre Range, in order to agree on a way that will allow these countries to ratify and implement the HNS Convention simultaneously;
- NL intends to start in 2018, at countrywide level, collecting data on the total amounts of received HNS goods;
- NL would also like to take on board lessons learned from other countries that already gained experience in reporting/ratifying;
- Ratification by NL would be possible after national legislation is in place (estimated time of legislative procedure is 18 months).



Topic for discussion: reporting prior to the entry into force of the HNS Convention

- Receivers of HNS goods could be required to report on received HNS goods to the national government (**option 1**);
- In case port authorities already receive detailed data on HNS goods entering and leaving their ports, port authorities could be asked to share this data with the national government (**option 2**).

Question: What would be the advantages and disadvantages of both options?