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HNS.2/Circ.17  
14 April 2026

**PROTOCOL OF 2010 TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON LIABILITY AND  
COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CARRIAGE OF  
HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES BY SEA, 1996**

**Ratification by Germany, acceptance by the Kingdom of the Netherlands for  
the European part of the Netherlands and the Caribbean part of the Netherlands  
(the islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba), accession by Belgium and Sweden**

The Secretary-General has the honour to refer to the above Protocol and to state that, in accordance with article 20(3) thereof, accession by the Kingdoms of Belgium and Sweden, ratification by the Federal Republic of Germany, and acceptance by the Kingdom of the Netherlands were effected by the deposit of instruments on 14 April 2026.

The four instruments were accompanied by a submission of data on the total quantities of contributing cargo liable for contributions received during 2025 in respect of the general account and each separate account, pursuant to article 20(4) of the Protocol, as indicated below.

<b>2025</b>	<b>General account</b>	<b>Oil account</b>	<b>LNG account</b>	<b>LPG account</b>
<b>Belgium</b>	9,703,718	20,851,363	10,311,936	0
<b>Germany</b>	3,023,510	35,209,235	7,073,995	178,026
<b>Netherlands (Kingdom of the)</b>	11,470,207	96,267,454	12,036,973	3,682,851
<b>Sweden</b>	3,645,810	20,055,747	291,100	1,761,126

Article 21(1) provides as follows:

"This Protocol shall enter into force eighteen months after the date on which the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (a) at least twelve States, including four States each with not less than 2 million units of gross tonnage, have expressed their consent to be bound by it; and
- (b) the Secretary-General has received information in accordance with article 20, paragraphs 4 and 6, that those persons in such States who would be liable to contribute pursuant to article 18, paragraphs 1(a) and (c), of the Convention, as amended by this Protocol, have received during the preceding calendar year a total quantity of at least 40 million tonnes of cargo contributing to the general account."

There are, at present, 12 Contracting States to the Protocol, 9 of which have more than 2 million\* units of gross tonnage, Therefore, the first condition for the entry into force of the Protocol has now been fulfilled.

The four new contracting states received, in 2025, a total quantity of 27,843,245 tonnes of cargo contributing to the general account.

The instruments expressing the consent to be bound by the treaty received by Belgium, Germany and Sweden were accompanied by the following declarations:

From Belgium:

"Judgments on matters covered by the Convention, as modified by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of the Member States of the European Union, with the exception of the courts of Denmark, shall be recognized and enforced in Belgium according to the relevant rules of the European Union on the subject.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention, as modified by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of the Kingdom of Denmark, shall be recognized and enforced in Belgium in accordance with the 2005 Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention, as modified by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of a third State bound by the Lugano Convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters of 30 October 2007, shall be recognized and enforced in Belgium in accordance with the said Convention."

From Germany:

"The Federal Republic of Germany hereby ratifies the Protocol of 30 April 2010 to the International Convention of 3 May 1996 on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea in accordance with:

- Council Decision (EU) 2017/769 of 25 April 2017 on the ratification and accession by Member States, in the interest of the European Union, to the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, with the exception of the aspects related to judicial cooperation in civil matters (OJ L 115/15, 4.5.2017); and
- Council Decision (EU) 2017/770 of 25 April 2017 on the ratification and accession by Member States, in the interest of the European Union, to the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, with regard to the aspects related to judicial cooperation in civil matters (OJ L 115/18, 4.5.2017).

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\* Tonnage figures provided by S&P Global are current as of 31 December 2025.

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Judgments on matters covered by the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Bulgaria, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Hellenic Republic, Hungary, Ireland, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Republic of Malta, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, the Portuguese Republic, Romania, the Slovak Republic, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Spain or the Kingdom of Sweden, shall be recognised and enforced in the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with the relevant European Union rules on the subject.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of the Kingdom of Denmark, shall be recognised and enforced in the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with the 2005 Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of a third State bound by the Lugano Convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters of 30 October 2007, shall be recognised and enforced in the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with that Convention.

The amounts listed in Article 9, paragraph 1, of the 2010 HNS Convention are to be calculated pursuant to Article 9, paragraph 9 (a) of the 2010 HNS Convention (Special Drawing Right as defined by the International Monetary Fund)."

From Sweden:

"In accordance with Article 5 paragraph 1 of the Convention that this Convention does not apply to ships: (a) which do not exceed 200 gross tonnage; and (b) which carry hazardous and noxious substances only in packaged form; and (c) while they are engaged on voyages between ports or facilities of Sweden.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of another Member State of the European Union, with the exception of Denmark, shall be recognised and enforced in the Kingdom of Sweden in accordance with the relevant European Union rules on the subject.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of the Kingdom of Denmark, shall be recognised and enforced in the Kingdom of Sweden in accordance with the 2005 Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters.

Judgments on matters covered by the Convention as amended by the Protocol of 2010, when given by a court of a third State bound by the Lugano Convention on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters of 30 October 2007, shall be recognised and enforced in the Kingdom of Sweden in accordance with that Convention."