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**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT  
OF SHIPS' BALLAST WATER AND SEDIMENTS, 2004**

**Accession by Belgium and Fiji**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, and to state that accession by the Kingdom of Belgium and the Republic of Fiji was effected by deposit of instruments on 7 March 2016 and 8 March 2016, respectively.

The conditions for entry into force of this Convention have not yet been fulfilled. Article 18(1) of the Convention provides as follows:

"1 This Convention shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than thirty States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than **35%** of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or have deposited the requisite instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in accordance with article 17."

There are, at present, 49 Contracting States to the Convention, representing approximately **34.82%\*** of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping.

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\* This tonnage percentage is based on world tonnage figures provided by IHS Fairplay, as of 29 February 2016.