

Ministers' Roundtable: Safety of Cruise Ships

JOINT STATEMENT

Ministers and high-level representatives from industry met for a Roundtable discussion at the 2012 Annual Summit of the International Transport Forum in Leipzig for an exchange of views on passenger ship safety following the unfortunate events that led to the grounding of the Costa Concordia in January this year.

Roundtable participants:

- Agreed that lessons to be learned from this incident can only be drawn from the accident investigation report -- the conclusions of which are wished as early as possible. Nevertheless they agreed to support a review of passenger ship safety under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including the human element and the suitability of current training standards.
- Encouraged IMO's Maritime Safety Committee to consider proposals to strengthen the current provisions on safety of all cruise ships.
- Discussed proposals made by Germany as regards mandatory evacuation simulation, improved Rules on lifesaving appliances, strengthened International Safety Management (ISM) provisions and improved electronic charting, and welcomed these proposals for further discussion within the IMO.
- Agreed the common objective to achieve global mandatory requirements that:
 - provide for flexibility in application of these for different sizes of ships and their specific needs,
 - follow a goal-based approach for enhance ship safety, and
 - allow for transparency in compliance.

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Michael Crye
Executive Vice President
Cruise Lines International Association

Peter Hinchliffe
Secretary-General
International Chamber of Shipping

Stefan Jaeger
President
European Cruiser Association (EUCRAS)

Do-Youp Kwon
Minister, Land, Transport and Maritime
Affairs
Korea

Andrija Lompar
Minister, Maritime Affairs, Transport and
Telecommunications
Montenegro

Torkild Torkildsen
Deputy CEO
Hurtigruten ASA, Norway

Bernard Meyer
Managing Director
Meyer Werft, Germany

Peter Ramsauer
Federal Minister, Transport, Building and Urban
Development
Germany

Koji Sekimizu
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Thomas Strang
Vice President
Carnival Corporation, USA

Michael Thamm
President
AIDA Cruises, Germany