



Media Note
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London PSI Meeting Advances Public-Private Partnership to Combat WMD Proliferation

Representatives from the Departments of State, Defense, Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation met with 19 other nations supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in London September 25-26. The two-day international workshop focused on enhancing the operational capability of PSI participants along with maritime industry partners to halt the international trafficking of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials.

The topics discussed included port governance, the roles of freight forwarders and shipping line owners and operators, the disposition of cargo, implications of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA), the government decision-making process, and how industry can further participate with PSI supporting nations.

This is the third PSI government-industry workshop. The first was the August 2004 Container Line Industry Workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark, followed by the September 2005 Air Cargo Industry Workshop in Los Angeles, California. The London workshop, hosted by the UK Ministry of Defence, included representatives from the governments and industry of 20 countries -- Argentina, Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The workshop was also a key component of PSI efforts to further develop operational concepts and ensure that PSI supporting governments develop a cooperative relationship with industry experts.

The United States commends the United Kingdom on a successful and important workshop that supported the efforts of PSI governments to enhance cooperation with maritime industry partners. Maritime industry partners can play a critical role in increasing opportunities for interdicting weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials.

The PSI was announced in May 2003 in Krakow, Poland, as an effort for nations to use a variety of robust tools within national and international law to defeat the proliferation of WMD around the world. In June, senior political officials from around the globe met in Warsaw to recognize the third anniversary of the initiative and pledge their support for its "Statement of Interdiction Principles." Today, more than 75 countries are participating in the PSI.

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