

### Preventing WMD Proliferation

Governments and industry from around the world are meeting in London today to discuss the best ways to prevent Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) their means of delivery and related equipment being shipped around the world.

Over 75 countries have expressed support for the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) since its launch in 2003. Regular international meetings help develop ways of preventing WMD proliferation without damaging legitimate trade.

Today's Maritime Industry Workshop will focus on how to prevent the spread of WMD, delivery systems and related equipment through co-operation with the shipping industry. Co-operation with the transport industry is crucial in preventing proliferation and this meeting aims to bring governments and industry together to share best practice and better understand each others needs and requirements.

Minister for the Armed Forces, Adam Ingram, said:

"Every country and shipping company in the world has a key part to play in preventing proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

"This meeting is an important step towards ensuring that ship-based proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weaponry continues to be

prevented while ensuring the needs of the global shipping industry are understood by governments around the world.”

### **Notes to Editors**

1. The Proliferation Security Initiative was launched by US President George W Bush in Krakow, Poland, in May 2003. Since then, more than 75 countries have expressed their support for the PSI.

2. The PSI builds on existing mechanisms to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction their means of delivery and related equipment consistent with national authorities and relevant international law.

The PSI complements other national and international non-proliferation efforts, including the work of the OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

3. Today’s London Conference involves a total of some 130 officials from Governments around the world and representatives from the shipping industry.

4. Participating states contribute to the PSI in the following ways:

Undertaking a review and provide information on current national legal authorities to undertake interdictions at sea, in the air, or on land.

Identifying specific national assets that might contribute to PSI efforts.

Establishing appropriate internal government processes to coordinate PSI response efforts.

Participating in PSI interdiction training exercises and actual operations as opportunities arise.

5. For more information please call Matthew Willey in the MoD Press Office on 020 7218 7924 or visit

[www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk) OR [www.proliferationsecurity.info](http://www.proliferationsecurity.info)