



**WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL**  
PARTNERS IN TRADE

Statement of Christopher Koch  
President & CEO  
**World Shipping Council**

December 7, 2006

The World Shipping Council supports and commends today's announcement by the Department of Homeland Security of its "Secure Freight: International Container Scanning Network" initiative and its first phase deployment.

The Council and its Member ocean carriers industry fully support the various efforts by the government to protect America's international cargo supply chains from terrorist risks, via the Container Security Initiative, advance screening of all containerized cargo shipment data, and container scanning and inspection as appropriate. To build on those efforts and create an international network of container scanning capabilities operated in cooperation with this nation's trading partners would be a significant step forward in securing international commerce.

The efforts to create such an international system and global data sharing network amongst countries engaged in maritime trade and to further develop stronger and more internationally harmonized risk reduction for international commerce are ambitious and important initiatives. We are optimistic that, working together, the U.S. government, participating host governments, and the industry will be able to effectively address any challenges that may arise in this phase of the initiative. We also commend the Department for its phased approach in implementing this initiative, as the lessons learned from the initial phase are likely to be important and valuable for subsequent phases of this initiative.

By going beyond the minimum pilot program of foreign container scanning that Congress mandated in Section 231 of the bipartisan and recently enacted SAFE Port Act, DHS's announcement today of its vision and operational overview of the ICSN demonstrates its continued leadership and commitment to the public, to the industry, to the security of America's trade, and to the governments of our trading partners.

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The World Shipping Council is a non-profit trade association representing the international liner shipping industry. The Member companies of the Council carry over 93% of the United States containerized international commerce. For more information on the Council, see [www.worldshipping.org](http://www.worldshipping.org)