



**KOMMUNENES INTERNASJONALE MILJØORGANISASJON
LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
ORGANISATION**

PRESS RELEASE

TUESDAY 9th FEBRUARY

**UK SHOULD FOLLOW AUSTRALIA'S LEAD IN TARGETING THE CAUSE
OF LOST CONTAINERS**

The Australian government have issued a marine notice (2/2010) to the container shipping industry. They are conducting a Focused Inspection Campaign (FIC) between the 1st February and the 30th April that will primarily concentrate on "*container securing equipment; both fixed and portable*". The equipment inspected will include such things as twist locks, lashing bars and wires etc. If an Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) surveyor finds a serious deficiency in the equipment he has the powers to detain the ship under Australian law.

A focused campaign such as this in the UK would go some way to preventing the sixty plus containers lost in UK waters each year and help to improve port loading procedures. At present UK legislators are hoping that the issue is dealt with at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and hope the industry will regulate itself in the mean time. KIMO UK encourage the UK government to follow the Australians lead and to introduce more robust checks on container lashings and to ensure that such regulations are brought to the IMO as soon as possible.



Materials from containers that have polluted the coastlines, whether from a major shipping accidents or from individual containers, create an environmental, operational and financial burden on coastal authorities, one that they can ill afford in the present economic climate. KIMO resolution 1/08 Lost Containers from shipping calls for a several technical improvements which could be made to reduce the thousands of containers lost from vessels every year and their burden on coastal communities.

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Notes to editors

KIMO (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) is an association of coastal local authorities whose goal is to eliminate pollution from the Northern Seas. The organisation's members include 120 local authorities representing over 6 million inhabitants in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, the Faeroe Islands, the Netherlands, Belgium, United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the Isle of Man and has established a KIMO Baltic Forum involving 5 countries. KIMO UK is the United Kingdom network of the organisation and has a Secretariat based in the Shetland Isles.

A copy of KIMO Resolution 1/08 can be found at
<http://www.kimointernational.org/Portals/0/Files/RESL108.pdf>