

## Some flags cleaning up

**Members of the so-called round table of shipowners' associations in the latest edition of their 'Flag State Performance 2007' table show some flag states are cleaning up their act.**

The table assesses the flag states by the number of negative-performance indicators, including port-state-control and compliance with international conventions, against their name. Those that have 12 black marks merit a special mention.

Those that scored 12 black marks include Albania, Bolivia, Cambodia, Costa Rica, North Korea, Congo, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Mongolia, Sao Tome & Principe, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic and Thailand.

Kuwait was listed among those countries last year but has shown significant improvements with only nine black marks this year and has earned a place on the Paris MOU white list.

Belize has also continued its improvement with five black marks and is also included in the United States Coast Guard (USCG)'s "QualShip 21" list.

The table does show some interesting anomalies with many European flags, including Norway, Belgium and Sweden, which have won a place on the Paris MOU white list, not making it onto QualShip 21.

The round table is made up of Intertanko, The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), Intercargo, Bimco and the International Shipping Federation.

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