AMVER
50th
anniversary

Press Release

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BELGIAN AMBASSADOR RECEIVES AMVER AWARD
United States Coast Guard Recognizes Belgium's Contribution to Safety At Sea

NEW YORK – The United States Coast Guard Cutter Katherine Walker hosted a Belgian delegation, June 11, including Ambassador Johan Verbeke, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, who received special recognition for Belgium's participation in the Amver search and rescue system. Ambassador Verbeke accepted the award on behalf of the Belgian maritime community.

Belgium has most of its flagged merchant vessels enrolled in the humanitarian search and rescue system. Some vessels have been participating 30 years or longer.

Three Belgian vessels have been involved in search and rescue cases in the last several months including assisting a migrant vessel in distress, searching a wide swath of ocean for a radio distress beacon, and searching a coastal area for an overdue fishing vessel.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,200 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit http://www.amver.com to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

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