CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESSES
KEYNOTE ADDRESS
National and International Approaches to Maritime Security

Rear Admiral Gottfried A. W. Hoch

I am delighted to have been given the honor of opening this top-level conference by briefing you on such an important and central topic as Maritime Security. I consider this both a chance and a challenge. The fact that this is already the 31st Conference for Ocean Law and Policy to be held shows how multi-layered and complex this subject area really is. Also the phrase “Approaches to...” from the title of this year’s conference indicates that we have in no way reached the end of a comprehensive international discussion, which is subject to continuous development.

First of all, however, I would like to present to you the compliments of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), German Navy, Vice Admiral Nolting who very much regrets that he cannot be with you today. He sends his best wishes for an interesting and, above all, successful conference.

In my position as “mariner” among a large number of legal specialists and experts, I will try to avoid legal pitfalls as far as possible and to concentrate on briefing you from a more practical point of view of a military expert.

Being a representative of the host nation’s fleet, I will essentially present to you Germany’s position with respect to the topic of maritime security as I know that tomorrow’s speaker, Georg Witschel, will rather focus on the international approach. It goes without saying that national and international perspectives cannot exist separately when it comes to considering the High Seas.

1 Deputy CINC German Fleet.