



ECSA Newsletter

European Community Shipowners' Associations

• N° 4/08

ECSA/EMEC WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE – THE WAY FORWARD, 4th JUNE

Jointly organised by ECSA and the European Equipment Council (EMEC), a well attended and successful Workshop on Climate Change took place in Brussels on 4th June. Keynote opening addresses were made by the Director General of DG Environment, Peter Carl, and the ECSA President, Philippe Louis-Dreyfus. The event demonstrated that while shipping has a good CO₂ record and has been successful over the years in reducing emissions, the sector is actively looking at improvements and is examining the technical, operational and legislative options.

It was encouraging that international rather than regional initiatives are considered the preferred way forward both by the EU institutions and industry; Member States and the Commission were consequently urged to actively support IMO over the next year or so in developing solutions that are consistent with a recognition that shipping is and will be the backbone of world trade. ECSA wishes to play its full part in finding a practical way forward and looks forward to continued cooperation with both EMEC and with the Commission.

The presentations and press release can be found on
<http://www.emec.eu/thewayahead/index.asp>



Director General of DG Environment, Peter Carl, and the ECSA President, Philippe Louis-Dreyfus

FUTURE MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE HORIZON 2008-2018

In 1996 the Commission presented a Communication "Towards a New Maritime Strategy". It put forth a long-term vision on Europe's strategic thinking in the maritime transport sector. It has served well as a basic guideline but needs to be updated. Before the end of 2008, the Commission intends to present a Communication "Maritime Transport: blue horizons of commitment". These blue horizons will encompass the input from the senior shipping professionals and from the Member States together with an economic analysis of trends, opportunities and challenges until 2018. It will be the result of a wide consultation with all interested parties, building also on the input received that led to the adoption of the Maritime Policy Communication in October 2007. The "Maritime Transport: blue horizons of commitment" will provide the strategic framework for EU policy development in the years to come.

On the eve of the First European Maritime Day, the European Commission invited under mentioned senior shipping professionals to discuss the strategic challenges and opportunities for European shipping and the maritime transport system over the next decade.

Mr. Detthold Aden, BLG Logistic Group
Mr. John Coustas, Danaos Corporation
Mr. Leo Delwaide, ex-Port of Antwerp
Mr. Philippe Louis-Dreyfus, Louis-Dreyfus group
Ms. Cecilia Eckelmann-Battistello, Contship Italia, Eurokai
Mr. Nikos Efthymiou, Union of Greek Shipowners
Ms. Elisabeth Grieg, Grieg Shipping Group AS
Mr. Emanuele Grimaldi, Grimaldi Lines
Mr. Dagfinn Lunde, DVB Bank AG
Mr. Brian Orell, NAUTILUS

Mr. Knud Pontoppidan, A.P. Møller –
Mærsk A/S
Mr. Marnix van Overklift, Seatrade Group

As mentioned above the Commission Communication on the future maritime transport policy 2008-2018 is expected towards the end of the year.

MOTORWAYS OF THE SEA

ECSA meets with Coordinator Professor Luis Valente de Oliveira

The ECSA Short Sea working Group had on 21 May an interesting exchange of views with the TEN-T Coordinator for Motor Ways of the Sea Professor Luis Valente de Oliveira.

Key points that emerged are that efficient ports and port services are vital for short sea shipping. Sufficient port capacity and hinterland connections are a priority particularly for the South of Europe.

Administrative procedures have to improve drastically. A single window and e-communications would be useful. A simple straight forward solution has to be found on a European transport space without barriers. The ECSA suggestions as sent to the Commission were also given to Professor Valente de Oliveira. Support possibilities were reviewed. The ECO bonus as applied now in Italy should be applied by more countries as a best practice.

Professor Valente de Oliveira is preparing a report to be presented to the European Parliament later this year.

STAND BY OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSELS IN THE ATLANTIC COAST AREA FOR EMSA

On 20th May the European Maritime Safety Agency launched a procurement procedure for stand-by oil recovery vessels in the Atlantic Coast area. The deadline for replying is 27th June, further details being available on the EMSA website www.emsa.europa.eu under the "Procurement" section".

ECSA/WSC WORKSHOP ON ADVANCE CARGO DECLARATION

Well attended with an interactive exchange of views

On 6 June, ECSA organised – in cooperation with the World Shipping Council (WSC) – a workshop in Brussels with an aim at providing member companies and member associations with an opportunity to have an exchange of views with the European Commission (DG TAXUD) on the advance cargo declaration provisions, as laid down in Regulation 1875/2006. These provisions are scheduled to enter into force on 1 July 2009.

As reported in previous newsletters, despite the adoption of Regulation 1875 in 2006, there have been ongoing discussions between the European Commission, Member States and trade associations, including ECSA, in 2007 and 2008 towards a practical and workable regime for advance cargo declaration within the European Community. These discussions will result in a revision of Regulation 1875/2006, likely to be adopted in the autumn of 2008.

Simultaneously with the discussions on the revision of Regulation 1875/2006, there have also been ongoing discussions on the electronic implementation of an advance cargo declaration regime in the European Community. However, due to delays in the development of the specifications for the supporting IT systems in the Member States and with the economic operators, including shipping companies, it appears increasingly doubtful whether these systems will be ready on 1 July 2009.

The ECSA/WSC workshop with the representatives of the European Commission was well-attended by several shipping companies and National Shipowners Associations.

On 4 June, Regulation 450/2008 of 23 April 2008 laying down the Modernised Customs Code (MCC), was published in the Official Journal. The provisions of the MCC will now be further developed

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through Implementing Provisions. The MCC and its Implementing Provisions are expected to enter into force in 2013 and will replace the current Customs Code. Arranging for the implementation of the MCC will be a major undertaking for ECSA.

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