Can EU facilitate sustainable ship recycling practices worldwide?

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EU experts meeting on ship recycling
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Yes, it can
when ...
... ultimately the following 3 goals are met

1. The entry into force of a global instrument
   - create a global level playing field
   - Only available instrument is the Hong Kong Convention

2. Instrument providing a global list of compliant facilities
   - Allow Safe and Environmentally Sound Ship Recycling
   - Protection of workers and environment

3. An adequate list of facilities which shipowners worldwide use
   - Specific concerns ECSA: members trade worldwide

→ So, ... how can EU contribute to achieve these GLOBAL goals ?
→ Answer is threefold
1. Contribute by acknowledging progress in third countries

→ All invited to witness the strong progress over past years to raise standards, in particular in India
→ To stimulate further improvements
→ 2nd fact finding visit February
Sustainable ship recycling can successfully be done anywhere provided that right skills, mind-sets and investments are there

Some examples

Investment in Plot design

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substandard</th>
<th>HKC standard</th>
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![Substandard Plot Design](image1)

![HKC Standard Plot Design](image2)
Housing workers

Asbestos handling training

Sub-standard  HKC standards
Good waste management / handling
2. Contribute by encouraging sustainable recycling worldwide

**WHAT is Sustainable Development?**

It meet needs of the present while ensuring that future generations can meet their own needs
WHY aim for it?

Sustainable development is embedded in all EU policies
- 3 pillars: economic, social and environmental

EU takes this into account to achieve sustainable development in trade relations and foreign policy
.. and ship recycling!?

→ Given need for steel, ship recycling is an industry of great economic importance in South Asia

If EU takes own principles serious, it should **encourage increase of environmental and social standards** while ensuring important economic effects of the Ship Recycling industry
Not look inwards & discourage progress made in South-Asia
But encourage by e.g. providing full transparency in the decision making process

- For non-EU facilities
  - When compliant: on the EU list
  - When not compliant: constructive feedback

- EU facilities ?: do they accept ships for recycling?
  Several examples of refusal EU flagged ships
3. Contributing by promoting swift adoption HKC

→ International regulation = most effective way to ensure sustainable and equals standards worldwide
→ EU MS & others should ratify as a matter of priority
→ EU to encourage other flag and recycling States to ratify, as this will upgrade the facilities worldwide
Yes, EU can facilitate sustainable ship recycling worldwide, when it …

1. **Acknowledges** progress made in third countries while stimulating further transformation
2. **Encourages** developments sustainable ship recycling practices
3. **Promotes** the adoption of HKC

= Our plea the EU to become a frontrunner, to set pace and make others to follow suit
Final facts

1. The EU SRR is based on principles of IMO’s Hong Kong Convention, EU SRR has to facilitate the early ratification of the HKC, within the EU and in 3rd countries (SRR, art. 1)
2. 18 months prior to HKC, EU has to review SRR to consider inclusion of facilities authorised under HKC in order to avoid duplication of work & administrative burden
3. In the EU SRR reference is made to safe and sound recycling practices in the intertidal zones (no exclusion methods, as per HKC)

- These two legal instruments are interlinked, there is no other way forward than to facilitate HKC ratifications
- EU SRR does not try to regulate EU facilities
Final thoughts

“Do not believe what I tell you... but think, make up your own mind”

E. Vermeersch"
Thank you

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