

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECASBA PLENARY MEETING HELD AT  
THE MELIA GRAND HERMITAGE HOTEL  
GOLDEN SANDS, VARNA  
AT 9.30 a.m. ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2010**

**Present:**

Mr. A. Belmar da Costa	Chairman
Mr. T.D. Paulsen	President FONASBA
Mr. J. A. Foord FICS	Vice Chairman

**In Attendance:**

Mr. J.C. Williams FICS	General Manager
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Mr. R. Garcia Piñiero	Argentina	Ms. Cosma Cavallo	Italy
Mr. J. Dulce	Argentina	Mr. G.E. Duci	Italy
Mr. G. Hernandez	Argentina	Mr. V. Totorizzo	Italy
Mr. L. Russell	Australia	Ms. G. Reghellin	Italy
Mr. G. Gordon Findlay	Brazil	Mr. F. Carlini FICS	Italy
Mr. M. Froio	Brazil	Mr. T. Iigaki	Japan
Mr. L. Oliviera da Silva	Brazil	Mr. M. Andrade Gomez	Mexico
Mr. W. Rocha Jnr.	Brazil	Mr. E. Pinzas Vidmar	Mexico
Mr. N. Hristov	Bulgaria	Mr. J. Vega Arriaga	Mexico
Mr. K. Angelov	Bulgaria	Mr. J Cutberto Parra Mendoza	Mexico
Mr. O. Kostadinov	Bulgaria	Mr. A. Mantrach	Morocco
Capt. J. Karmelić	Croatia	Mr. M.S.B. Duin	Netherlands
Mr. C. Papavassiliou	Cyprus	Mr. J.W. van der Huel	Netherlands
Mr. P. Christodolou	Cyprus	Mr. K.F. Eriksen	Norway
Mr. A. Houtved FICS	Denmark	Mr. L. P. Stofjord	Norway
Mr. G.J. Heinonen	Finland	Mr. E. Bandelj	Slovenia
Mr. C. Génibrel	France	Mr. N. Warner	South Africa
Mr. K. Bültjer	Germany	Mr. J. Fernandez	Spain
Mr. B.J. Stokes FICS	Great Britain	Mrs. B. Blomqvist	Sweden
Mr. P.J. Wood FICS	Great Britain	Mrs. M. Collins	USA
Mr. B. Szalma	Hungary	Mr. G. Knudsen	INTERTANKO
Mr. P. Demeter	Hungary		
Mr. R. Zuck	Israel	<b>Observers</b>	
Mr. U. Masucci	Italy	Mr. K. Turkantos	Turkey
Mr. G. Masucci	Italy		

**Item**

**Action**

**1. President's Welcome, Chairman's Opening Address**

The **President** welcomed all those present to this first Plenary meeting of the 2010 Annual Meeting. He extended a particular welcome to those attending for the first time, in particular **Mr. Tonguc** from the newly elected Turkish Shipbrokers' Association and **Mr. Turkantos**, attending as an observer pending the ballot on membership of the Maritime Association of Turkey. He also welcomed the observers from the Bulgarian Association.

The **Chairman** also welcomed delegates to the meeting and expressed his thanks to the Bulgarian association for hosting the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Cape Town, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

With no comments having been received, the minutes **were approved**.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Mr. Wood**, having noted there was no separate item for Working Group Reports, gave a short summary of the results of the ICS examinations for 2010 and reported on ongoing developments

aimed at keeping the syllabus relevant and up to date with changes in the shipping industry and also in the education establishment. He reported that 2010 was another record year for the number of candidates (1,791) and the number of papers sat (4,261). The 2011 examinations would take place during the period 11-21 April.

Looking forward, he said that ICS was reviewing the structure of the syllabi and examinations, the latter to better reflect relevant changes in university practice, and the appeals process had also been revised.

It was intended that the Advanced Diploma would be offered for the last time in 2011 and **Mr. Wood** enquired if there was any ongoing demand for the diploma beyond that date. **Mrs. Blomqvist, Mr. Houtved** and **Mr. Eriksen** said that Sweden, Denmark and Norway were very keen to continue to offer this qualification, and **Mrs. Blomqvist** added that the Advanced Diploma was an integral part of the education requirements for the FONASBA Quality Standard in Sweden. **Mr. Duci** said that he had been in discussion with ICS to provide a special version of the diploma for Italy and would be pleased to provide details.

**Mr. Wood** thanked all the delegates for their input and would report same back to the ICS Head Office.

**PJW**

#### **4. Future Brussels Representation**

The **Chairman** updated the meeting on the recent developments in relation to ECASBA's representation in Brussels post termination of the FEPORT agreement. His comments covered:

- His visit to Brussels in July, the meetings with ECSA, ESPO and CLECAT and the strong support and encouragement offered by each of those organisations for ECASBA undertaking their own representation
- Confirmation that all those associations would be prepared to make information available to ECASBA to keep it up to date on relevant developments
- A proposal from CLECAT to grant mutual membership of both associations on a no-fee basis
- The strong support for the move from the European Commission and its willingness to provide additional information to ECASBA
- A proposal to host regular informal lunches of all relevant associations in Brussels to enable further exchanges of views and discussions on appropriate topics

On the basis of these discussions, and those elsewhere with relevant organisations and individuals, the **Chairman** said that he was confident that ECASBA currently had all the appropriate issues covered and was also playing its part in supporting its colleague associations with their issues. Whilst ECASBA could not be complacent, he was confident that currently it was well placed to maintain its role, presentation and influence in Brussels. When additional resources became available, however, it was ECASBA's intention to seek to enhance its European activities and ultimately to open its own Brussels office, he said.

Overall the meeting supported the actions taken to date and agreed that the current strategy was the best that could be undertaken with the currently available resources. **Mr. Masucci** congratulated ECASBA on its efforts to date but expressed his preference for the establishment of a Brussels office at the earliest opportunity.

#### **5. Working Group Review**

The **Chairman** briefed the meeting on the discussions within the Advisory Panel in relation to the effectiveness of the current Working Group structure. He said that it was necessary to periodically revise the structure and membership to reflect the European Commission's work programme as it affected the ECASBA membership. As a result, the Panel had agreed to cease the Port Policy and Young Members' groups, retain Customs and Education, combine Short Sea Shipping and Environment and establish a new group to concentrate on e-Maritime. Other ad-hoc groups could be established to advise ECASBA on specific issues but these four groups would, in the medium term, form the core of the Working Group structure. Membership of these groups would be determined in the coming months, he said.

**6. The State of Play 2011**

The **General Manager** gave an extensive and detailed review of ECASBA activity in relation to the main European policy issues over the past twelve months and looked ahead to those that would impact on maritime related policies in the coming months.

A copy of his presentation is attached to these minutes.

Following a general discussion on the issues raised, it was agreed that ECASBA would collate information from Member States on their actions, if any, related to establishing national single windows. The **General Manager** was asked to circulate all member associations in this regard.

JCW

**7. Issues for Discussion**

No issues had been nominated in advance.

The **Chairman** therefore updated the meeting on the issue of funding of Short Sea Promotion centres. He said that most centres continued to struggle with funding and indeed as the recession intensifies a number of regional and national governments that were funding their centres have now decided to withdraw their support. It was clear that in order to maintain the European Shortsea Network, central funding from the Commission was vital and ECASBA would continue to press for this to be implemented, as it has done on many occasions previously.

The **Chairman** then asked **Mr. Génibrel** to briefly summarise the new short sea service from Gijon to St. Nazaire. **Mr. Génibrel** said that the service began operating in early September with one vessel operating three round trips per week. It was hoped that in due course this would increase to five trips but this would be dependent on increased demand from haulage operators and more effort would be required to generate increased traffic. With regard to funding, he advised that France and Spain had each contributed € 30 million in start up support.

On the subject of future ECASBA seminars, the **Chairman** advised that the Advisory Panel had agreed that a separate seminar would be held in those years when FONASBA's Annual Meeting took place outside Europe and when it met in Europe the seminar would form part of the ECASBA Plenary as was being trialled this year. Henceforth all seminars would be held in Brussels in order to maximise participation by the Commission and for 2011 the date would be late April – early June. The exact date would be set to tie in with a meeting of the European Parliament in Brussels in order that a visit by delegates to the Parliament could be arranged, and possibly some relevant MEP's could attend the ECASBA seminar. The **Chairman** said he would progress this initiative and report back. He also advised that ECASBA would participate in the 2011 European Maritime Day event in Gdansk and would be in discussion with the Commission's DG for Maritime Affairs (DG-MARE) with regard to the possibility of hosting another workshop or other high profile activity within the event.

ABdC

The meeting also discussed increasing ECASBA's profile within the European Parliament and to this end the **General Manager** was asked to provide a list of the MEP's currently on the Parliament's TRAN(SPORT) Committee (*Done*) and member associations were asked to provide the Secretariat with details of other national MEP's with an interest in maritime matters in order that ECASBA's views could be passed back for their information and, hopefully, to gain their support.

JCW

Assns.

**8. Any Other Business**

None

**9. European Maritime Transport Policy**

Following the lunch break the **Chairman** introduced Christos Pipitsoulis, Programme Manager at Unit C2, DG-MOVE, who made a presentation entitled "Developments in EU Maritime Transport Policy".

**10. Customs Developments**

It had been intended that a representative of DG-TAXUD would also be present at the meeting to make a presentation on customs developments but regrettably the significant workload within DG-TAXUD had made this impossible. Mrs. Maria-Manuela Cabral, Head of Unit A1, Customs Policy and Electronic Customs, had however provided a presentation and the **General Manager** introduced it to the meeting on her behalf.

**Mr. Totorizzo**, coordinator of the ECASBA Customs & Transit Working Group, then made a presentation on the impact of the introduction of the European Advance Cargo Declaration scheme on January 1st 2011.

His presentation was followed by a general discussion on the implications of the new regime on imports to Europe from overseas. One of the issues raised related to the time limits for action by Customs in relation to misdeclarations for bulk cargo. **Mr. Totorizzo** said that the Modernised Customs Code did not specify any limits but added that the limit for containerised cargo had been extended to ten years. He therefore recommended that individual associations should approach their national authorities to ascertain what limits would be applied locally. Concern was also expressed that European customs authorities would not grant a grace period after the regime was introduced.

**Assns.**

As a number of non-European associations were not fully informed as to the implications of the new regime, the **General Manager** was asked to circulate the ECSA guidance notes to all FONASBA members soonest. *(Done)*

**JCW**

Copies of all three presentations are attached.

**11. Panel Discussion on Maritime Transport Policy and Customs Developments**

As most of the issues under review had been discussed fully as the presentations progressed, it was agreed that there was no requirement for a separate discussion forum.

**12. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The **Chairman** advised that the next Plenary Meeting of ECASBA would take place in October 2011 in Sydney, with the date to be confirmed in due course.

**There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.**

**JCW/11.2010**