

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**BETWEEN**

**INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)**

**ASIAN SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (ASA)**

**AND**

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS (ECSA)**

**BEING** the principal global and regional associations, representing shipowners and operators and partnering those global and regional organisations, institutions, regulators and other bodies which impact and affect the interests of international shipping;

**COMPRISING** broad memberships of national shipowners' associations located in around 50 countries and territories;

**ENCOMPASSING** collectively more than 90% of the world's merchant tonnage;

**REPRESENTING** all shipping sectors and trades, and their respective memberships of national shipowners' associations, through which structures they can uniquely and legitimately claim to speak for the significant majority of international shipping; and

**RECOGNISING** the special relationship which their member national shipowners' associations enjoy with their governments and maritime administrations;

**ICS, ASA and ECSA** hereby **REAFFIRM** their *raison d'être* to serve as advocates for the international shipping industry and **AGREE** to

**ENHANCE** and **BUILD UPON** their existing close liaison relationships, with a view to **MAINTAINING** and further **IMPROVING** a strong and coherent voice for the global shipping industry.

**The three associations hereby COMMIT to**

**COOPERATE** where appropriate and practicable on all issues of maritime affairs that may affect the interests of shipowners and operators, including:

- Shipping and trade policy matters;

- Maritime law, legal affairs and insurance issues;
- Technical and operational matters, including safety of life at sea and maritime security, environmental protection, ship construction, navigational safety and ship management;
- Labour affairs and seafarer training; and in the
- Promotion of best practice throughout the industry.

**SUPPORTING** this end, ICS, ASA and ECSA hereby **AGREE** to:

**ENCOURAGE** high standards of operation and the provision of high quality and efficient shipping services;

**STRIVE** for a regulatory environment which embraces safe shipping operations, protection of the environment, maintenance of open markets and fair competition based on free trade principles, as well as adherence to internationally adopted standards and procedures;

**SUPPORT** such regulation of shipping at a global level, in particular at the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO);

**OPPOSE**, where appropriate, unilateral and regional action by governments;

**PRESS** for recognition of the commercial requirements of shipping and of the need for operators who meet the required standards to secure a proper commercial return;

**REMAIN COMMITTED** to the promotion and updating of industry guidance on best operating practices;

**COOPERATE** with other organisations, including intergovernmental, regional, governmental and non-governmental bodies, in the pursuit of these objectives;

**PROMOTE** the industry's profile as a safe, clean, energy efficient, well regulated and responsible facilitator of global trade;

**ANTICIPATE** whenever possible, and respond whenever appropriate, to policies and actions which may conflict with the above.

**PURSUING** these objectives, ICS, ASA and ECSA further undertake to cooperate where appropriate and practicable in the following areas:

**SHARE** information about international, regional and national developments that may potentially affect or impact upon the interests of international shipowners and operators;

**PARTICIPATE**, as appropriate, in the work of their respective associations' Annual General Meetings and policy making committees, with reciprocal rights of attendance at meetings;

**CONTRIBUTE** to the development of, and **ENDORSE AND PROMOTE**, as may be appropriate, joint policy positions and papers with governments and regional bodies;

**INVITE** comment on draft policy positions and initiatives on which the other associations may have legitimate interest in expressing their views; and

**DISSEMINATE AND EXCHANGE** any other information that may be relevant to the activities and interests of their respective associations, member national shipowners' associations, and the industry which they collectively exist to serve; whilst

**RESPECTING AND PROTECTING** intellectual property rights and confidentiality requests of the respective lead associations. The three associations undertake not to distribute each other's materials, including circulars, to their members that are not members of the lead association without first obtaining permission and to acknowledge the source.

**RECOGNISING** that closer cooperation on relevant issues of maritime affairs will be in the interest of all shipowners and operators, ICS, ASA and ECSA commit to closer cooperation as outlined herein.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will apply from the date of signature until termination by any of the associations on the giving of one month's written notice to the other associations. Its sole purpose is to provide a framework for closer cooperation between the three associations and it is not intended to cover every detail of such cooperation. As part of the three associations' mutual commitment, ICS, ASA and ECSA will act in accordance with the spirit and intent of this MOU, even though none of them intends that it be legally binding.

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