

# ECASBA

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup> 2000 AT THE HOTEL SOFITEL FORUM RIVE GAUCHE PARIS

**Present** Mr. U. Masucci – Chairman, ECASBA  
Mr. E. de Clebsattel – President

Mr. R. Fischer – Austria	Mr. F. Carlini – Italy
Mr. R. de Meyer – Belgium	Mr. R. Corrias – Italy
Mr. M. Froio – Brazil	Mr. G. Fanfani – Italy
Mr. F. Pinto Almeida – Brazil	Mr. V. Banovic - Montenegro
Mr. M. Tudor – Croatia	Mr. M. Duin - Netherlands
Mr. C.P. Papavassiliou – Cyprus	Mr. A. Stove-Lorentzen – Norway
Mr. A. Houtved – Denmark	Mrs. G.C. Noer – Norway
Mr. K. Kuusela – Finland	Mr. B. D'Orey – Portugal
Mr. G.J. Heinonen – Finland	Mr. A. Belmar da Costa – Portugal
Mr. A. Lobadowsky – France	Mr. V. Andrianichev – Russian Fedn.
Mr. K. Bültjer – Germany	Mr. A. Evdokimov – Russian Fedn.
Mr. P.J. Wood – Great Britain	Mr. M. Iqbal Bolar – Saudi Arabia
Mrs. B. Fletcher – Great Britain	Mr. R. Veselko – Slovenia
Mr. R.J. Davies – Great Britain	Mr. E. Bandelj - Slovenia
Mr. J. Barclay – Great Britain	Mr. A. Duran – Spain
Mr. J.A. Good – Great Britain	Mr. A. Pérez-Maura – Spain
Mr. G. Georgopoulos – Greece	Mr. J. Exposito-Paradela – Spain
Mr. P. Demeter – Hungary	Mr. L. Lindebäck - Sweden
Lt. Cdr. L. Smith – Ireland	Mr. L. Karacelik – Turkey
Mr. M. Hennebry – Ireland	Mr. M. Dobravskiy – Ukraine
Mr. A. Guadalupi – Italy	Mr. G. Knudsen - INTERTANKO
Mr. A. Thissen – France (Observer)	Mr. L. Fraconet - France (Observer)
Mr. A. Ravisse – France (Observer)	Mr. J. Minaud – France (Observer)
Mr. Y. Sauwels – France (Observer)	Mr. E. Denangeon – France (Obs.)
Mr. C. Bele – France (Observer)	Mr. H. Amouroux – France (Obs.)
Mr. G. Huret – France (Observer)	Mr. R. Muscat – France (Observer)
Mr. C. Genibrel – France (Observer)	Mr. D. Lacombe – France (Obs.)
Mr. F. Mahé des Portes – France (Observer)	Mr. S. Lebreton – France (Observer)
Mr. R. Clayton – Fairplay Intl.	Mrs. S. Starbuck – “Ships Agent”

**In Attendance** Mr. J. C. Williams – General Manager  
Mr. P. Verhoeven – Secretary General – ESPO

Item	Action
1. <b>PRESIDENT'S WELCOME</b>	

The **President** welcomed all delegates and observers to the meeting and especially Mr. Francois Le Bars, the newly elected President of FACAM. He then handed the meeting over to **Mr. Masucci**, Chairman of ECASBA.

2. <b>CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS</b>	
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**Mr. Masucci** also welcomed all those present and thanked FACAM for hosting the Annual Meeting.

He then gave brief details of the restructuring of ECASBA since the last Annual Meeting in Sintra, and in particular the revisions to the Working Groups and the changes in the membership of the Advisory Panel.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes had been circulated previously and as no objections were raised they were taken as **approved**.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

No matters relating to the Minutes of the previous meeting were raised by delegates.

### 5. OVERVIEW OF MAIN EU DEVELOPMENTS

**Patrick Verhoeven**, standing in for the Secretary General of FEPORT, gave the meeting a detailed overview of recent developments in Europe relating to maritime policy, safety and the environment and customs and institutional development.

Brief notes on the presentation and copies of the slides are attached to these minutes.

He advised that not proposals have yet been put forward on Seaport Policy, due in part to the activity following the "ERIKa". It is expected that further movement on this will take place towards the end of the year. Of particular concern will be the draft directive on Access to Port Services. In a change from previous indications, any future Seaport Policy is not now expected to contain any directives on port financing or an infrastructure-charging framework. It is expected this draft directive will be issued in January 2001.

The recent proposals on **tanker safety** generated some debate amongst delegates, especially in relation to any possible impact on agents and brokers from the proposed European Maritime Safety Authority and pollution liability regime. Delegates were also concerned as to what type of vessels would fall under the Commission's definition of "high risk".

**Patrick Verhoeven** indicated there would inevitably be some peripheral impact on agents and brokers if the proposals went through and a number of delegates expressed concern at the possibility of agents becoming involved in matters outside their direct area of expertise or authority. With regard to the definition of "high risk", he said that as the proposals had only been issued the week before, no detailed consideration had yet been given to this matter.

**Mr. Masucci** said that ECASBA should respond to the new proposals, calling on the European Union to apply the existing safety legislation correctly and evenly throughout EU membership. If this is done there should be no need for further legislation or for national administrations to apply different limits.

JCW

**The President** reminded those present that if the new proposals became effective they would also have an impact outside Europe.

With regard to **short sea shipping**, **Patrick Verhoeven** reported that support for this mode of transport was growing within Europe but little tangible progress had been made, in spite of strong support from the Commission and also MIF.

**John Barclay**, as SSS Working Group Coordinator, advised that the main problem was the strength of the road haulage lobby but noted that there is increasing use by national governments of fuel prices as a disincentive to road transport and this may in time aid the development of short sea shipping. Other delegates also mentioned the impact of cheap eastern European and former Soviet Union haulage operators.

The short sea shipping bottlenecks enquiry had identified 110 problem areas raised by trade associations with a further 40 identified by the Commission itself. Unfortunately on 4 examples of best practice had been identified.

In conclusion, therefore, **Patrick Verhoeven** said, there was a very long way to go on this issue.

An enquiry from the floor raised the question of additional competition from railways and it was acknowledged that some national governments were now promoting this as a green alternative to road transport.

It was agreed that ECASBA should issue a statement on Short Sea Shipping and **John Barclay** was asked to draft a suitable text following this meeting.

**JWB**

Concluding his presentation, **Patrick Verhoeven** briefly mentioned the review of Trans European networks, infrastructure charging to promote eco-friendly modes of transport, competition policy on liner consortia and safety and environment related initiatives such as port reception facilities, the Marine Industry Charter and Equasis. Customs and Transit reform was also making good progress, although more work remained to be done.

Finally, **Mr. Veselko** of Slovenia raised the question of ECASBA support for the Slovenian proposal that the European Union adopt the UN Convention on Liability for Terminal Operators. **Mr. Masucci** advised that this proposal had been circulated to members but the poor response had indicated a lack of support for such a move.

On the subject of responses to circulated enquiries etc., **Mr. Masucci** called on all national associations to ensure that they ensure that all matters raised are given the appropriate level of consideration and that replies are passed back to the Secretariat.

**Natl.  
Assns.**

**The business of the meeting was now adjourned for a presentation by Mr. Lacombe of Euromar consortium on the uses of information technology in the maritime sector.**

**A coffee break followed the presentation**

## **6. ECASBA ADVISORY PANEL MEETINGS**

**Mr. Masucci** gave brief details of the previous three meetings, two held in London in January and June and the meeting held in Paris on 16<sup>th</sup> October.

He also advised the meeting of the resignation from the Advisory Panel of bob de Lange and Charles Stride and expressed his and ECASBA's thanks to both for their contribution to the development of the Association. He then introduced Roy Davies and John Hunter as the two new members of the Panel and also announced the appointment of John Hunter as Vice Chairman of ECASBA and briefly mentioned his intended role in maintaining contact with the Commission in Brussels.

## 7. ECASBA WORKING GROUPS

### SHORT SEA SHIPPING

**John Barclay's** report had been tabled (a copy is attached) and his only additional comment was to welcome Mr. Veselko from Slovenia to the Working Group.

### CUSTOMS & TRANSIT

**John Stolk's** report had also been tabled (a copy is attached). As Mr. Stolk was not present, **Mr. Masucci** gave a brief resume of the work carried out by the Group, especially in relation to the transit reform process and the Group's activities within the Transit Action Group. The Group will continue to work closely with TAG in order to ensure that Customs policy in Europe remains workable and commercially acceptable.

**Mr. Masucci** also advised delegates that the Working Group was carrying a heavy workload with only three members and asked member associations, particularly in the Mediterranean and Scandinavian regions, to nominate suitable additional candidates for this group.

**Mr. De Meyer** suggested that ECASBA may wish to consider establishing a working group to look at the increasing volume of work relating to port reception facilities. **Mr. Masucci** agreed to this suggestion and appointed **Mr. De Meyer** as coordinator. **Mr. De Meyer** was asked to liaise with the **General Manager** and the ECASBA Brussels representative to establish the group.

RDM/  
JCW/  
HdL

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Mrs. Barbara Fletcher**, coordinator, gave the meeting a short introduction to the proposed FONASBA / ECASBA education initiatives.

She outlined progress to date on the establishment of a pilot scheme to deliver the "UNDERSTANDING SHIPPING" course to four European countries by internet and also gave brief details of a proposed FONASBA/ECASBA education qualification for staff with a minimum of two years experience.

The proposals cover the provision, under the direction of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, of courses designed to provide either a general understanding of the shipping industry or a qualification directly related to an individual's area of experience. In the latter option, there will be two papers, one of which would be general in nature and could be adapted to local needs. Delivery would be by correspondence course and in time some assessment of papers could be effected locally. It is intended that successful completion of either course will count as a credit towards the Institute qualifying examinations.

Whilst the project would be under the auspices of FONASBA, it is likely that European funding availability, perhaps through the Leonardo project, would result in the initial courses being run within the ECASBA membership, with expansion to the wider FONASBA membership in due course.

**Mr. Masucci** said that the project had the full backing of ECASBA and provided an excellent opportunity of both gaining from the experience of the Institute in the delivery of education worldwide and also of raising the profile of the Association in another field.

**The President** confirmed that the FONASBA Executive Committee had also given the project its full backing and called for full support from member associations.

## PORT POLICY

The Port Policy Working Group was asked to consider the replies given to the European Commission questionnaire on access to port services by ECASBA, FEPORT and ESPO and to decide if ECASBA should make further recommendations to Brussels ahead of the release of the draft port services directive. The **General Manager** had been asked to undertake a comparison study of all three replies and to circulate these to the working group.

JCW

### 8. EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Mr. Masucci** ruled that this had been covered adequately under the previous item.

### 9. EQUASIS

A brief general discussion on the Equasis database followed, during which delegates were reminded that this resource was available to all, both within and outwith Europe, and that it could prove useful to member associations. The **General Manager** was asked to make mention of the database, and provide contact details, in the next issue of the FONASBA newsletter.

JCW

### 10. ENLARGEMENT OF ECASBA

**Mr. Masucci** advised that ECASBA currently has nineteen members, representing fifteen full members of the European Union – Luxembourg being the exception – and four applicant members, Poland, Slovenia, Hungary and Cyprus. He also advised that he would be discussing the possibility of Lithuania joining ECASBA with Mr. Viachekauskas during this meeting.

He also said that it was gratifying to see that matters covered by ECASBA were of interest to associations outside Europe, as evidenced by the presence of overseas representatives at the meeting.

### 11. ECASBA/FEPORT COOPERATION

**Mr. Masucci** briefly reiterated that **Patrick Verhoeven** had left FEPORT in September to join ESPO but was standing in at this meeting for Hanneke de Leeuw, the newly appointed Secretary General of FEPORT. He also took the opportunity of formally thanking Patrick on behalf of the ECASBA Advisory Panel and membership for his valuable contribution to the work of the Association.

### 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Mr. Georgopolous**, from Greece, asked if ECASBA or FONASBA could provide a guide to agents in Greece as to a suitable level of agency fee remuneration. **Mr. Masucci** advised that the whole subject of agents remuneration would be discussed at the Liner & Tramp Agency Committee meeting but reminded delegates that the whole subject of recommended or published scales of agency fees remained a grey area in terms of EU Competition Law.

Finally, **Mr. Masucci** reminded delegates that a proposal to increase the

ECASBA membership fee by 8% had been approved by the Advisory Panel and that this would be put before the entire membership for discussion at the Council meeting. He said the Advisory Panel had approved the proposal to increase the ECASBA fee by more than that proposed for FONASBA members in view of increased demands which the Association's work on European matters placed on the Secretariat on the FONASBA budget.

**13. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Mr. Masucci** advised the delegates that the next meeting was scheduled for October 17<sup>th</sup> 2001 in Antwerp.

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

**JCW/12.00**