

ECASBA

MINUTES OF THE PLENARY MEETING OF ECASBA HELD AT

THE RITZ CARLTON HOTEL ISTANBUL

AT 2.30 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th 2003

Present:

Mr. G. J. Heinonen

Mr. U. Masucci

Mr. K. Bültjer

Chairman

President, FONASBA

Vice Chairman

Mr. M. Tudor	Croatia	Mr. M. Gorgoni	Italy
Mr. A. Ellinas	Cyprus	Mr. V. Vaicekauskas	Lithuania
Mr. E. Kouzapas	Cyprus	Mr. A. Mantrach	Morocco
Mr. C.P. Papavassiliou	Cyprus	Mr. M. Duin	Netherlands
Mr. G. Sarris	Cyprus	Mr. P. Bohaugen	Norway
Mr. K. Kuusela	Finland	Mrs. G.C. Noer	Norway
Mr. F. LeBars	France	Mr. A. Belmar da Costa	Portugal
Mr. A. Lobadowski	France	Mr. V. Banovic	Serbia & Montenegro
Mr. J.A. Good	Great Britain	Mr. E. Bandelj	Slovenia
Mr. P.J. Wood	Great Britain	Mr. N. Warner	South Africa
Mr. S. Angelopolou	Greece	Mr. A. Perez-Maura	Spain
Mr. G. Georgopoulos	Greece	Mr. L. Karacelik	Turkey
Mr. S. Finkei	Hungary	Mr. S. Digre	Intertanko
Mr. F. Carlini	Italy	Mr. G. Wramfelt	The Shipbrokers Register
Mr. V. Tottorizzo	Italy		

In Attendance:

Mr. J.C. Williams

General Manager

Item

Action

1. President's Welcome, Chairman's Opening Remarks

The **President** welcomed all those present to the first plenary meeting to be held during the 2003 Annual Meeting. On behalf of all the delegates he also thanked **Mr. Karacelik** and his staff for having arranged the meeting. The **Chairman** then made a brief speech, welcoming all delegates to the meeting. A copy of the speech is attached to these minutes.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held October 9th 2002

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated previously. As no comment had been raised previously or at the meeting, the minutes were taken as **approved**.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not otherwise covered in the agenda.

4. ECASBA Advisory Panel

The **Chairman** reported on the activities undertaken by the Advisory Panel during its meetings in January, June and October 2003. These included:

- Confirming the membership of the Working Groups,
- Relaying to the Commission and other appropriate EU bodies ECASBA's views on issues including the draft Directive on Access to Port Services, Port Security, Ship Generated Waste and Short Sea Shipping
- Attending the MIF meeting in Naples in October 2002
- Attending the FEPORT 10th Anniversary celebrations in Brussels
- Meeting EU officials

He said the Panel had also undertaken other activities aimed at raising ECASBA's profile and ensuring that so far as possible it promoted and protected the interests of its members and, where appropriate, the wider FONASBA membership in the European forum.

5. Overview of Main EU Developments Since the Last Meeting

The **Chairman** and **General Manager** made presentation on the main EU developments since the last ECASBA Plenary Meeting in Rio de Janeiro. A copy of the presentation was circulated to all FONASBA members ahead of the meeting. The only recent change to the presentation as circulated was that the European Parliament was expected to ratify the conciliation text of the Port Services Directive on November 18th, not December 4th (slide 51).

Following the presentation the meeting discussed the current Port Services Directive conciliation text and its acceptability in their home nations. On the basis that many of the original proposals had been relaxed, removed altogether or were to be implemented by national governments, most member associations present felt that the conciliation text would be acceptable. Most also felt that the Directive in its current form would henceforth function as a means to ensure the continued liberalisation of the European port industry. Accordingly the **Chairman** was asked to write to the Commission and European Parliament to express ECASBA's support for the Directive in its conciliation version and also in recognising the great efforts made to support the principle of liberalisation and freedom of trade.

GJH

The meeting also discussed port security and members expressed the view that port security measures should be applied on a consistent, appropriate and relevant basis and should be so structured as to facilitate trade. Concern was expressed that some measures currently under consideration would, if implemented, severely hamper international trade.

The **President** referred to his presentation at the Port Security Conference in Genoa on September 26th, a copy of which would be circulated to all national associations in due course.

6. ECASBA WORKING GROUPS

The **Chairman** invited the coordinators of the ECASBA Working Groups present at the meeting to make a brief presentation or report on their activities during the past year.

Mr. Belmar da Costa, coordinator of the **Short Sea Shipping Group**, made a presentation, a copy of which accompanies these minutes. He specifically highlighted a number of issues including:

- The network of European Short Sea Promotion centres, their current activities and future aspirations
- The Marco Polo project, the "Motorways of the Sea" initiative and their impact on short sea shipping

- The proposal to develop a European Intermodal Loading Unit, and
- The Commission's Guide to Customs Procedures

On the European Intermodal Loading Unit, (EILU) the meeting agreed with ECASBA's previously stated view that an exclusively European standard was not necessary. Indeed any changes to the present standards would result from industry demand, not Commission directives.

The meeting also agreed that coordination and simplification of customs procedures across the EU, whilst difficult, was necessary to ensure increased trade facilitation.

A number of delegates gave brief reports on action to develop short sea shipping in their countries.

For the **Marine Safety & Environment Group**, **Mr, Duin** made a brief verbal presentation on issues covered by his group. These included:

- Port Security – this issue had already been discussed previously
- Ship Generated Waste Disposal
- The proposed Environmental Code of Practice

The introduction of the Directive on Ship Generated Waste Disposal was debated fully with some delegates expressing concerns that agents were being forced to give up their role as coordinators of waste collection services and as a result forfeit the fees earned by so doing. The proposal that all EU ports charge a similar level of basic fee to encourage vessels to discharge waste at every port did not appear to be applied in practice as many delegates reported varying levels of charges being applied within their own countries. Intertanko reported that it had expressed considerable concerns at the level of provision of waste oil facilities and the charges levied by the operators for use of same.

Mr. Wood, coordinator of the **Education & Training Group**, reported on his efforts to develop a questionnaire to ascertain the level and scope of the educational needs of the ECASBA, and FONASBA, membership. He said there was a clear need for education in the agency and broking industries but it would be necessary to define exactly what those needs were before developing the appropriate courses. The questionnaire would also seek to ascertain members' views on the best means of delivering education.

A number of delegates took the opportunity of making brief reports on educational developments in their own countries.

The coordinators of the **Customs & Transit** and **Port Policy Groups** were not present at the meeting but their reports had been circulated to all members.

The **Chairman** thanked all the Group coordinators for their efforts over the past year and encouraged member associations to participate fully in their work, both by nominating individuals to join the groups and also by responding to requests for information and other communications. He said the work of the groups was vital to the ability of ECASBA to represent its members in Europe and so every effort must be made to give them the fullest possible support.

7. **FONASBA By Law Revision**

With the proposed revision to By Law 10.3 - changing the membership of the ECASBA Advisory Panel - having been circulated to all members and approved by the FONASBA Executive Committee, **Chairman** advised the meeting that if accepted by Council the new membership structure would ensure closer cooperation between the Working Groups and the Advisory Panel and therefore enhance the operational efficiency of ECASBA. As no adverse

comment had been made previously or during the meeting, the proposal was deemed to have received the approval of those present. The formal vote on adoption would be taken during the Council meeting.

8. ECASBA Membership Fee

The ECASBA Advisory Panel had proposed, and the FONASBA Executive Committee had approved, an increase of 2.5% in ECASBA membership fees for 2004/5. As no adverse comment was made during the meeting, the proposal was deemed to have received the approval of those present. The formal vote on adoption would be taken during the Council meeting.

9. ECASBA/FEPORT Relationship

The **Chairman** gave a brief outline of the background to, and reasons behind, the recent discussions with FEPORT over its provision of an ECASBA presence in Brussels. He said that he had discussed the matter on a number of occasions with the President of FEPORT, Mr. Valkeniers, and as a result the demand for a significantly increased fee had been withdrawn pending further discussions relating to the level of service provision, including cover during Hanneke de Leeuw's maternity leave. He had also been in touch with Patrick Verhoeven of ESPO and discussions were currently underway with regard to a tripartite representation agreement.

The meeting fully supported the **Chairman's** actions in this regard and congratulated him on the progress made. Delegates were keen to see an increase in the ECASBA presence in Brussels and supported the initiative to link up with ESPO.

10. Any Other Business

The **Chairman** referred the meeting to the recent European Commission consultation document on the development of the "freight integrator" as a new profession within the shipping industry. He said ECASBA had written to the Commission in May 2002 to advise that individuals with the necessary skills to perform the tasks envisaged for this new profession already operated in major liner agencies and logistics undertakings and so further action was unnecessary.

The meeting fully supported the view that, as with EILU's, the proposal took the Commission into areas and issues best left to the industry itself to develop on the basis of operational or market demand. The meeting agreed that ECASBA should write to the Commission and express its view that the role of the Commission was to provide the correct fiscal and regulatory environment in which industry could develop the practical tools to enhance intra-European trade. The **Chairman** said this had already been discussed during the ECASBA Advisory Panel meeting and he would be writing to the Commission in this vein.

GJH

Mr. Georgopoulos advised that the Greek government was currently in the process of privatising the ports of Salonika and Piraeus and he asked ECASBA members to provide his association with information on how the process was undertaken in other member states. It was agreed that a circular would be sent to all ECASBA member associations requesting the provision of relevant information.

JCW

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The **Chairman** advised the next Plenary meeting of ECASBA was scheduled for October 2004 in Budapest.

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

JCW/10.03

