

**MINUTES OF THE
ECASBA PLENARY HELD AT
HOTEL MILENIJ, OPATIJA
AT 9.00 a.m. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th 2008**

Present:

Mr. G.J. Heinonen	Chairman
Mr. M. Froio	President FONASBA
Mr. A. Belmar da Costa	Vice Chairman

In Attendance:

Mr. J.C. Williams FICS	General Manager
Mr. D. Teurelinx	ECASBA Brussels Representative

Mr. R. Garcia Piñiero	Argentina	Mr. M. Gorgoni	Italy
Mr. P. Campbell	Argentina	Mr. G. Scotto	Italy
Mr. J. Dulce	Argentina	Mr. G.E. Duci	Italy
Mr. G. Hernandez	Argentina	Mr. V. Totorizzo	Italy
Mr. P. Marassi	Argentina	Mr. N. Bezzi	Italy
Mr. J. Hunter	Belgium	Mr. R. Corrias	Italy
Mr. G. Gordon Findlay	Brazil	Mr. R. Turchi	Italy
Mr. L. Oliveira	Brazil	Mr. F. Carlini FICS	Italy
Mr. N. Hristov	Bulgaria	Mr. M. Andrade	Mexico
Mr. M. Tudor	Croatia	Mr. J. Vega	Mexico
Mr. C. Papavassiliou	Cyprus	Mr. V. Banovic	Montenegro
Mr. A. Houtved FICS	Denmark	Mr. A. El Glaoui	Morocco
Mr. T.D. Paulsen	Denmark	Mr. A. Mantrach	Morocco
Mr. E. Holma	Finland	Mr. M.S.B. Duin	Netherlands
Mr. S. Lomberg	Finland	Mr. J.W. van der Huel	Netherlands
Mr. C. Génibrel	France	Mr. G. Wastell	Netherlands
Mr. F. Le Bars	France	Mrs. G.C. Noer	Norway
Mr. K. Bültjer	Germany	Mr. K.F. Eriksen	Norway
Mr. F. Naumann	Germany	Mr. J. Azeredo	Portugal
Mr. J. A. Foord FICS	Great Britain	Mr. E. Bandelj	Slovenia
Mr. P.J. Wood FICS	Great Britain	Mr. N. Warner	South Africa
Mr. P. Demeter	Hungary	Mrs. B. Blomqvist	Sweden
Mr. B. Szalma	Hungary	Mrs. M. Collins	USA
Mr. M. Collins	Ireland	Mr. G. Knudsen	Intertanko
Mr. R. Zuck	Israel	Mr. A. Jamieson	ITIC
Mr. U. Masucci	Italy	Mr. G. Wramfelt MICS	Shipbrokers' Register
Ms. Cosma Cavallo	Italy		

Item

Action

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

The **President** welcomed all those present before handing the meeting over the **Chairman**, who made a short opening address. A copy of his address is attached.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting held Buenos Aires, October 10th 2007

With no comments having been received previously or made at the meeting, the minutes **were approved**.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

4. **European Maritime Developments and Update on ECASBA Action Since the Last Meeting**

The **General Manager** and **Mr. Teurelinx** gave an extensive and detailed review of ECASBA activity in relation to the main European policy issues over the past twelve months and also looked ahead to the issues that the Commission would continue to progress in the final year of its current term.

A copy of the joint presentation is attached to these minutes.

5. **Member Issues**

No issues had been brought forward for discussion from within the membership and so the **Chairman** invited **Mr. Belmar da Costa** to make a presentation on the current state of Short Sea Shipping within the EU. A copy of his presentation is attached.

Mr. Masucci expressed his concerns about the state of SS promotion in Italy but advised that the Promotion Centre was soon to be integrated into the Italian maritime cluster in an effort to improve its effectiveness.

Mr. Belmar da Costa said that all the Promotion Centres were finding it difficult to maintain momentum and needed the support of ECASBA member associations and their members to ensure they continued to operate. Their commercial input, and impetus, are vital to ensure that the effort remains focussed on the practical and relevant actions required to ensure the sue of SS increases. With regard to bringing the Italian centre into the maritime cluster, he felt that whilst this would provide valuable support for the centre itself, it may also result in a dilution of its effectiveness in the promotion of SSS. He also reiterated that it was necessary for the centres to generate political support, both for their activities but also to ensure they can continue to secure adequate financial support.

Mr. Azeredo said that the Commission and Member States should be looking at developing funding schemes appropriate to each MS and to each cargo mode. He said that the current “one size fits all” regimes were not totally appropriate or indeed relevant in all cases. He also echoed previous calls for emphasis to be placed on the development of appropriate and adequate hinterland connections to assist in the development of SSS. Finally he said there should be a complete rethink of the whole approach to the European transport sector.

The **Chairman** thanked **Mr. Belmar da Costa** for his presentation and the delegates for their input to the discussion.

6. **ECASBA Membership Fees 2009/10**

The **Chairman** reminded the meeting that the proposed subscription rates for ECASBA members for 2009/10 had been circulated previously, as part of the overall finance package. With no adverse comment having been received in advance, or voiced during the meeting, it was taken that the **meeting endorsed the proposals** and that they should now go forward for formal consideration during the Council Meeting.

7. **Any Other Business**

Mr. Szalma took the opportunity of reminding the meeting that it was up to the agency and broking communities to take responsibility for their own futures. They could not rely on help from other sources and so it was necessary for ECASBA and its members to take the lead, to develop new initiatives and also to ensure that it gave reasoned and considered responses to consultations and other communications from the Commission and other authorities at regional and national level.

His comments were very well-received and the **Chairman** thanked him for his candour.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The **Chairman** advised that the next Plenary Meeting of ECASBA would take place in October 2009 in Cape Town, with the date to be confirmed in due course.

The **President** then took the opportunity of thanking the **Chairman**, on behalf of the Executive Committee, the Advisory Panel and the ECASBA members, for his hard work and commitment to the development of ECASBA that had taken place over the past six years. That the association enjoyed such a high profile and was so well respected in Brussels was in significant part to his actions and his successor would have a difficult act to follow in taking the association even further in the future. The **General Manager** endorsed the **President's** comments, adding how much he had enjoyed working and travelling with the **Chairman** during his term of office. The **Chairman** thanked everyone for their support and said how much he valued the collaboration with such an excellent group of people. He also wished his successor every success and pledged his on-going support.

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

JCW/10.2008