

**MINUTES OF THE
ECASBA PLENARY MEETING HELD AT
TABLE BAY HOTEL CAPE TOWN
AT 2.30 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7th 2009**

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
Mr. D. Teurelinx	ECASBA Brussels Representative

Mr. R. Garcia Piñiero	Argentina	Ms. Cosma Cavallo	Italy
Mr. P. Campbell	Argentina	Mr. M. Gorgoni	Italy
Mr. J. Dulce	Argentina	Mr. G.E. Duci	Italy
Mr. G. Hernandez	Argentina	Mr. V. Totorizzo	Italy
Mr. M. Phillips	Australia	Ms. G. Reghellin	Italy
Mr. L. Russell	Australia	Mr. F. Carlini FICS	Italy
Mr. J. Hunter	Belgium	Mr. V. Banovic	Montenegro
Mr. X van Engelen	Belgium	Mr. A. El Glaoui	Morocco
Mr. G. Gordon Findlay	Brazil	Mr. A. Mantrach	Morocco
Mr. M. Froio	Brazil	Mr. S. Ahardan	Morocco
Mr. L. Oliviera da Silva	Brazil	Mr. M.S.B. Duin	Netherlands
Mr. A. Zanin de Oliviera	Brazil	Mr. J.W. van der Huel	Netherlands
Mr. N. Hristov	Bulgaria	Mr. G. Wastell	Netherlands
Capt. J. Karmelić	Croatia	Mr. K.F. Eriksen	Norway
Mr. C. Papavassiliou	Cyprus	Mr. A. Tablizo	Philippines
Mr. E. Kouzapas	Cyprus	Mr. M. Thoumas	Senegal
Mr. A. Houtved FICS	Denmark	Mr. E. Bandelj	Slovenia
Mr. G.J. Heinonen	Finland	Mr. N. Warner	South Africa
Mr. E. Holma	Finland	Mr. J. Fernandez	Spain
Mr. S. Lomborg	Finland	Mrs. B. Blomqvist	Sweden
Mr. C. Génibrel	France	Mrs. M. Collins	USA
Mr. B.J. Stokes FICS	Great Britain	Mrs. J. Cardona	USA
Mr. P.J. Wood FICS	Great Britain	Mr. M. Ogle	USA
Mr. B. Szalma	Hungary	Mr. S. Larsen	BIMCO
Mr. R. Zuck	Israel	Mr. A. Jamieson	ITIC
Mr. U. Masucci	Italy	Mr. G. Wramfelt MICS	Shipbrokers' Register

Item

Action

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

The **President** welcomed all those present to this first Plenary meeting of the 40th anniversary Annual Meeting. He extended a particular welcome to those attending for the first time, and in particular **Mr. Tablizo** from the newly elected Philippine Ship Agents Association (PSAA). The **President** also reported on the lunch meeting with Mr. Ye and Mr. Qian of the China Association of Shipping Agencies & Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (CASA), FONASBA's newest member association. He said Mr. Ye had expressed his regrets at not being able to attend any of the Plenary meetings but had strongly indicated CASA would attend the Varna meeting in 2010.

The **Chairman** also welcomed delegates to the meeting and expressed his thanks for the support given to him by the Executive Committee, the Advisory Panel and the members during the first year of his term of office.

2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting held Opatija, October 15th 2008**
With no comments having been received, the minutes **were approved.**

3. **Matters Arising**
None.

4. **Working Groups**

Before inviting the Working Group (WG) coordinators to make their reports, the **Chairman** made a brief presentation on the current state of Europe, the complexity of the tasks facing ECASBA in ensuring it adequately promotes and protects the interests of its members within the European institutions and the need for a high level of support from member associations in so doing.

He also advised that no Marine Safety & Environment report would be given as the coordinator, Klaus Bültjer of Germany, was not present at the meeting.

Education & Training (E&T)

Mr. Wood reported on the record year for ICS education in Europe, and in particular the very good examination candidate levels and pass rates. He then issued an open appeal to individual ECASBA member associations to contact him so that the WG could address specific E&T requirements as well as ascertain if there is a demand for any Europe-wide initiatives. He also reminded those present that the FONASBA Quality Standard included a commitment to ensuring staff received appropriate professional education and/or training.

Port Policy (PP)

Mr. Houtved spoke of the challenge to identify which issues his group should tackle. He said the overlapping areas of influence within the European Commission, and the recent tendency towards an holistic approach to maritime policy issues, required that the Group cover a wide range of topics and so additional support for the WG would be welcome. He urged all associations to get involved in developing ECASBA policy to ensure their voice was heard.

Customs & Transit (C&T)

Mr. Totorizzo said that although this was now the most important, wide-ranging and technically complex area of European policy development, and one that affects every association within ECASBA, support for the WG was disappointing, with only four members (including himself). He said that ECASBA was up against a number of large and very well resourced organisations representing other sectors, all of which were pushing their own agenda. It was therefore necessary for ECASBA to be able to call on the active support of all associations, by each being represented in the WG, in order to assist in the reviewing of customs issues and the development of ECASBA positions. He said that one of the major discussion documents, the Modernised Customs Code Implementing Procedures (MCCIP) ran to 364 pages and many of the matters covered therein would have an impact on the ECASBA membership. Further help was therefore required and he also called upon all ECASBA associations to support his WG.

Young Members (YM)

Mr. Duci echoed the sentiments of the other WG coordinators in seeking more members for his group. He was keen to develop initiatives for the younger members in order to bring them together and play an active role in the future of FONASBA but further input was required. He supported the suggestion, made by the **Chairman** at the Advisory Panel meeting the previous day, to invite a Young Members delegation to attend the Varna Annual Meeting and he would be working on this in conjunction with the **Chairman** in the coming months.

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Short Sea Shipping (SSS)

The **Chairman**, standing in for the WG coordinator, who was not present at the meeting, said that it was vital that all associations support their national SSS Promotion Centres and work towards ensuring the mode develops as anticipated. Current European Commission initiatives to streamline procedures and reduce administrative compliance regimes would certainly assist in enhancing use of SSS but concerted Europe-wide action, supported by all ECASBA associations

Assns.

was required.

Concluding the discussion, the **Chairman** thanked all the coordinators for their actions and once again urged all ECASBA associations to play an active role in the Working Groups.

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

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 **Mr. Teurelinx** looked ahead to the changes in the Commission and Parliament that would result from the recent European elections and their impact on maritime related policies in the coming months.

A copy of the presentations are attached to these minutes.

6. Member Issues

The **Chairman** advised that two issues had been nominated in advance. The first was raised by Portugal and concerned the procedures adopted by Member States for inputting the MRN number on shipping documents. A good level of response had been received from associations and it was clear that there was little, if any, consistency in the methods used across the various customs authorities.

Spain raised the issue of the limited timeframe (7 days) available to allow the required veterinary and plant health checks to be carried out on transshipment cargo. ANESCO asked ECASBA to make representations to the relevant Commission authorities to have this limit extended to a minimum of 21 days and a maximum of 31.

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The **Chairman** said he would ensure both matters were raised with the appropriate Commission units and also in the context of the Common European Maritime Transport Space without Barriers initiative.

7. ECASBA Membership Fees 2010/11

The **Chairman** reminded the meeting that the proposal to keep subscription rates for ECASBA members for 2010/11 at the level as the previous year, had been circulated in advance, 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 proposal** and that they should now go forward for formal consideration during the Council Meeting.

8. Any Other Business

The **Chairman** advised the meeting of the suggestion at the Advisory Panel meeting to hold the 2010 ECASBA Seminar in conjunction with the European Maritime Day event in Gijon, Spain. He said this would be an excellent opportunity to get ECASBA even closer to the Commission and to further raise its profile within the European maritime community. The meeting was supportive of the proposal and the **Chairman** said he and the **General Manager** would begin work on the necessary arrangements immediately they returned to the office.

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The meeting also discussed the proposal to terminate the representation agreement between ECASBA and FEPORT. Whilst the concept of ECASBA having its own face and voice in Brussels was supported, concern was expressed at the ability to obtain timely information on issues of concern to the members and the ability of the association to promote its views in the appropriate fora. The **Chairman** said that whilst it was not yet possible for ECASBA to establish its own office in Brussels, it was the intention to continue working, as it had done effectively in the past, in conjunction with other bodies – for example ECSA, ESPO and FEPORT – on issues of common interest. Where ECASBA's views diverged from those of the colleague organisations, then it would continue to present its own views directly to the Commission. Action would also be taken to secure the information flow to ensure ECASBA did not miss out on any relevant developments. ECASBA was also committed to developing its own profile with members of the European Parliament. The Advisory Panel and Executive Committee would oversee developments in this respect and any new arrangements would be

subject to Executive Committee endorsement.

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The **Chairman** advised that the next Plenary Meeting of ECASBA would take place in October 2010 in Varna, 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/11.2009