

# FONASBA

## MINUTES OF THE ECASBA PLENARY MEETING HELD AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL BUDAPEST AT 1.30 p.m. ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> 2004

### Present:

Mr. G.J. Heinonen	Chairman, ECASBA
Mr. U. Masucci	President
Mr. K. Bültjer	Vice Chairman ECASBA

Mr. P. Campbell	Argentina	Mr. N. Ganzarski	Israel
Mr. R. Garcia Piñero	Argentina	Mr. F. Carlini FICS	Italy
Mr. G. Hernandez	Argentina	Dr. R. Corrias	Italy
Mr. J. Hunter	Belgium	Mr. B. Ferrando	Italy
Mr. X. van Engelen	Belgium	Mr. V. Totorizzo	Italy
Mr. G. Gordon Findlay	Brazil	Mr. F. Camisetti	Italy
Mr. M. Froio	Brazil	Mr. V. Vaicekauskas	Lithuania
Mr. A. de Goés Pereira	Brazil	Mr. M. Andrade Gomez	Mexico
Mr. A. Zanin	Brazil	Mr. J. Vega Arriaga	Mexico
Mr. M. Tudor	Croatia	Mr. A. Mantrach	Morocco
Mr. C.P. Papavassiliou	Cyprus	Mr. M. Duin	Netherlands
Mr. E. Kouzapas	Cyprus	Mrs. G.C. Noer	Norway
Mr. G. Sarris	Cyprus	Capt. K. Goworowski	Poland
Mr. A. Houtved FICS	Denmark	Mr. A. Belmar da Costa	Portugal
Mr. T. Paulsen	Denmark	Mr. V. Frincu	Romania
Mr. S. Lomberg	Finland	Mr. E. Bandelj	Slovenia
Mr. R. Sandberg	Finland	Mr. N. Warner	South Africa
Mr. C. Génibrel	France	Mr. A. Pérez-Maura	Spain
Mme. F. Collet	France	Mrs. B. Blomqvist	Sweden
Mr. P.J. Wood FICS	Great Britain	Mr. L. Karacelik	Turkey
Mr. J.A. Good FICS	Great Britain	Mr. G. Wramfelt MICS	The Shipbrokers Register
Mr. J.A. Foord FICS	Great Britain	Mr. P.G.D. Smith FICS	
Mr. J. Pachoulis	Greece	<b>Observers</b>	
Mr. P. Demeter	Hungary	Mr. Z. Bendjellit	Algeria
Mr. B. Szalma	Hungary	Mr. R. Clayton	Fairplay Intl.

### In Attendance

Mr. J.C. Williams FICS	General Manager
Ms. H. de Leeuw	ECASBA Brussels Representative

### Item

#### 1. President's Welcome and Chairman's Opening Remarks

The **President** welcomed all those present to the first plenary meeting of the 2004 Annual Meeting. He then handed the meeting over to the **Chairman**. A copy of his address is attached to these minutes.

#### 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting Held Istanbul, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2003

The minutes had been circulated previously and as no comments had been received in advance, or were made at the meeting, the **minutes were approved**.

#### 3. Matters Arising Not Otherwise Covered in the Agenda

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

### Action

#### 4. ECASBA Advisory Panel

The **Chairman** gave a brief report on the activities undertaken by the Advisory Panel since the last Plenary.

He reported that three meetings had been held, in January, July and on the day preceding this meeting. All had been well attended and productive and he thanked the members of the Panel for their support. ECASBA had been very active in commenting on the current European initiatives, including port and intermodal security, the European Intermodal Loading Unit, short sea shipping, Motorways of the Sea and state aid and transparency. He confirmed that ECASBA would continue to express the views of its members to the Commission on such issues, and at such time, as appropriate.

He said that overall ECASBA felt that so far as many maritime issues were concerned, the Commission should confine its activities to the provision on a suitable legal and fiscal framework within which industry could develop the appropriate commercial solutions. It was not, he said, the Commission's role to impose solutions on such matters.

Concluding, the **Chairman** said that he had visited Brussels three times during the year and had met with the Commission on each occasion. It was necessary, he said, to ensure that ECASBA's name was kept in front of the Commission on a regular basis.

#### 5. Overview of Main EU Developments

The **Chairman** asked **Ms. de Leeuw** to update the meeting on the main developments in EU maritime policy since the previous meeting.

A copy of **Ms. De Leeuw's** presentation is attached but in précis the main items covered were:

##### TRANSPORT POLICY

- Short Sea Shipping – the development of SSS within the community was proceeding well but many obstacles still remained, including variations in customs procedures, the increased documentation requirements compared to road traffic and others. It was interesting to note, however, that the Commission now viewed the development of SSS as primarily an industry issue.
- European Intermodal Unit – the Commission continues to promote this initiative in spite of opposition by industry. The Commission has, however, now agreed that any developments must be linked to existing international standards.
- Trans European Networks – the legal framework for the Motorways of the Sea has now been set. There is considerable concern over the effect the granting of MofS status to one port will have on competition with adjacent ports.
- Marco Polo II – tenders for sustainable transport systems are now being sought for funding under this new initiative. Under MP II, projects involving partners outside the EU will be eligible, although funding for the non-EU sector will require to be sourced externally.

##### MARINE SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT

- ERIKA II – a Council common position is still sought for the improved compensation and liability regime
- Waste Disposal – the European Maritime Safety Agency is set to undertake a review of the implementation and operation of the Ship-Generated Waste Disposal Directive. The survey is expected to commence late in 2004 and will look at all aspects of the Directive, including charging regimes and migration of waste to ports where cheaper disposal fees are charged. ECASBA has offered its services to EMSA in this regard.

##### SEAPORT POLICY

- Port Services Directive - the outgoing Commission has proposed reviving the in spite of the opposition to it first time round. Although details have not yet been formally released, it is

expected that a number of contentious issues, including self-handling - will be included in the new version but on a more encouraging note it is understood that the new proposal will include competition between, as well as within, ports. ECASBA will respond as soon as the new proposals are formally released.

- Port and Freight Transport Security – the draft directive on port security continues to make its way through the legislative process with a number of minor changes being proposed. The directive proposal on freight transport security is expected by the end of 2004.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the **Chairman** reminded those present that ECASBA had expressed its views on the various initiatives but these must be backed up by action in Member States. National associations must ensure their authorities were aware of the views of industry.

The **Chairman** thanked **Ms. de Leeuw** for her presentation.

## 6. Working Group Reports

The **Chairman** invited the coordinators of the ECASBA Working Groups that were present to make a brief presentation.

### PORT POLICY

**Mr. Corrias** referred to the intention of the Commission to reintroduce the Port Services Directive proposal which could have far-reaching effects on the ports. Increased competition in the port sector could also affect short sea shipping and the Motorways of the Sea initiative. He said that increased competition was necessary within the port sector but there was concern that the current proposals would not achieve the required results.

### EDUCATION & TRAINING

**Mr. Wood** advised that his questionnaire on currently available education programmes had only generated 5 replies, which was disappointing, but it had allowed him to make a start on cataloguing what was being provided and what was wanted. He asked that any association that had not previously replied did so as soon as possible. **Mr. Pachoulis** then gave a brief introduction to the Hellenic Shipbrokers' Association's "Shipping Gnosis" certificate, which was now being delivered. He said it was biased in favour of ensuring candidates had a high degree of practical knowledge, as well as the academic input.

### MARITIME SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Duin** said that in addition to the ERIKA II and Waste Directive actions referred to in the previous item, the Commission was looking at a number of other areas, including sulphur in fuels, and the increasing level of vessels and cargo inspections by authorities. He said these were becoming more and more complex and time consuming and there was a need for a coordinated programme to ensure that these are carried out in the most efficient manner. Given the levels of subsidiarity that would attach to any Commission proposal in this regard, it was another matter that member associations should raise with their own national authorities.

## 7. ECASBA Membership Fee 2004/5

The **Chairman** advised the meeting that the Advisory Panel had recommended to Executive Council that an increase of € 4,000 in total ECASBA membership income be sought. The increase was necessary, he said, to ensure that ECASBA could continue to fully represent its membership and further to ensure that it could do so from its own resources. The **Secretary** explained that if approved – at Council on October 8<sup>th</sup> - this amount would be spread across the membership in accordance with the number of members each association returned to FONASBA. With the support of the Executive Committee having already been received, the **Chairman** asked the meeting to agree to the proposal being placed before the Council for ratification. The meeting **gave its agreement**.

**8. Any Other Business**

The meeting briefly discussed the low level of agent's participation in the Marco Polo II scheme (one application out of 13 notified so far) and some initial contacts on short sea shipping between the European Commission and the Mercosur countries.

**9. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The **Chairman** advised that the next Plenary Meeting of ECASBA would take place at the Tokyo Annual meeting in October 2005. The exact date would be notified by the Japanese association during the Council Meeting.

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

**He then introduced the speakers for the Short Sea Shipping Seminar.**

A copy of the agenda having been circulated previously, the presentations by messrs. van't Verlaat, Paulsen, Szalma and Belmar da Costa are circulated with these minutes.

**JCW/11.04**