

# FONASBA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



FONASBA confers a wide range of benefits on its member associations and these are summarised below:

- FONASBA is the only international organisation representing the professions of ship brokers and ship agents
- It is the accredited organisation representing ship brokers and ship agents to the International Maritime Organisation, World Customs Organisation and the European Commission, ensuring that the views of its members are voiced at the highest levels of international maritime policy making
- The Federation is owned and run by its member associations, not commercial companies, and exists solely to promote the interests of those associations. It is therefore able to represent the views of its members in an impartial, transparent and open way
- To ensure that it covers all issues of interest and importance to the members, FONASBA works through three Standing Committees, covering Chartering & Documentary, European (ECASBA), and Liner & Port Agency matters. Each is represented on the Executive Committee (FONASBA's main board) by its Chairman and Vice Chairman
- Also in membership are organisations whose work is of importance or relevance to ship agents and ship brokers. Known as Club membership, this is granted by invitation only and the members participate in the activities of the Federation and provide additional and complimentary support and expertise to the Federation. The Club members currently comprise the Baltic Exchange, BIMCO, INTERTANKO, the International Port Community Systems Association (IPCSA), indemnity insurer ITIC and the Shipbrokers' Register
- Regionally, FONASBA supports its members through four Regional Vice Presidents, all of whom are also members of the Executive Committee, who cover Africa & Middle East, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Their role is to support the existing members in their region and to encourage new member associations to join the Federation. FONASBA also hosts four regional "range" committees, covering the Nordic countries, the Mediterranean & Black Sea, Western Pacific & Indian Ocean regions and the Americas. These provide the members in each region with a forum for discussion of matters of local interest
- FONASBA is the originator and administrator of the FONASBA Quality Standard, the only recognised quality label for ship brokers and ship agents. Currently 27 associations and more than 420 companies in those countries are covered by the Standard, allowing ship owners and operators to choose FQS approved agents for many of their port calls. The Standard is endorsed and supported by ship owner associations including BIMCO, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO
- High levels of education and training are vital in the rapidly evolving environment in which ship brokers and ship agents operate. Qualified staff ensure that principals receive the highest level of service provided in the most efficient and effective manner. Recognising this, FONASBA works with those of its education provider members to collate and make available information on all those courses via a unique searchable facility on its website. A virtual booklist is also available to aid and assist study or for general interest
- Up to date information on port procedures is key to ensuring that ship owners and operators are fully prepared ahead of the arrival of their vessel at a particular port. Supporting the

information regularly provided by the port agent, FONASBA's Port Procedures Survey provides a free to use facility in the public domain to allow interested parties to obtain information on which procedures apply at a port and how they are interpreted

- FONASBA develops and publishes standard documents for use in the ship agency and ship broking sectors. These include guidance notes for interpreting charterparty clauses, standard agency agreements and similar. FONASBA's suite of standard documents is in the process of being reviewed, expanded and updated
- FONASBA is an active member of BIMCO's Documentary Committee and provides input to the Committee on relevant or appropriate issues
- Collaboration across the maritime sector is key in ensuring that legislators and policy makers fully appreciate the impact of their actions. To this end, FONASBA works closely with organisations at international and regional levels and, where appropriate, seeks to bring those organisations together in joint actions. FONASBA and its European committee ECASBA work closely with its Club members (see above) and other bodies including CLECAT, CLIA, ECSA, ESC, ESPO, ETA, FEPORT, UNCTAD, UNCITRAL and the World Shipping Council, in order to achieve common objectives
- FONASBA is a supporting organisation of London International Shipping Week and ECASBA is a member of the Steering Committee for Brussels Shipping Week.
- As well as its actions to promote and protect the interests of the international ship agency and ship broking community, FONASBA provides direct support to individual member associations in their discussions or negotiations with national authorities. This support can be provided in a variety of ways, including providing evidence of international best practice and accepted conventions, reasoned arguments in support of the association's position. Individual associations can also seek and receive guidance from other members within the wider FONASBA membership to inform and support their actions
- Surveys are regularly carried out amongst the members on specific topics and the results are published on the website for general guidance

FONASBA also organises events for its members as follows:

- FONASBA's main event for members is its annual meeting, which is held in a member country and usually rotates between Europe and the rest of the world. The event comprises the Plenary Meetings of the three Standing Committees, the annual general meeting of the Federation and a seminar (often on local issues) or maritime related visit organised by the local association. The Annual Meeting also provides an opportunity for members to meet, network and exchange views. A busy and interesting social programme is also provided
- ECASBA also hosts a seminar every year, either in Brussels or another major European maritime centre. This provides an opportunity for delegates to discuss current European maritime policy issues with representatives of the European Commission, local maritime authorities and others. These seminar sessions are restricted to members only, thus allowing open and frank exchanges of views. Since 2015, certain sections of the seminar programme have been opened up to other organisations, thereby enhancing the coverage of issues and allowing a wider discussion