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FONASBA



ECASBA

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THE NEW HORIZON



**THE FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF SHIP BROKERS AND AGENTS**
The Baltic Exchange, St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BH Great Britain
Tel: + 44 20 7623 3113, e-mail: generalmanager@fonasba.com
website: www.fonasba.com

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

Dear Members,

Several months have elapsed since our last newsletter, and a number of changes have been taken place. We are now in mid-2022, and it seems we are finally leaving the pandemic behind after more than two years. We are recovering our everyday lives but, of course, under a new reality. The pandemic taught us many lessons that we must apply from now on.

During these unexpected and challenging years our resilience has been tested. Our activity did not stop, and our work was the oil that contributed to keeping international trade moving, covering people's needs worldwide.

Furthermore, we had our Annual Meeting in Antwerp between May 22nd and 25th, which was a success and allowed us to be face to face again! I want to thank again NAVES and The Antwerp Shipping Federation for their dedication and excellent work, including having to reschedule it three times. Thank you also to all the members attending the event, representing thirty countries. We also missed those who could not be with us, and we invite you all to make a note in your schedules for our next AGM in Bahrain in October 2023.

Our FONASBA Quality Standard is now included in both the UN/CEFACT Minimum Standards for Ship Agents and Brokers and in the new GENCON 2022, which will be released soon. This will give the FQS wide visibility across the shipping industry. We thank all who supported and keep supporting our quality label.

I hope that this newsletter shows the activities that FONASBA has performed and is performing.

To close this message, I share with you the last paragraph of my speech at the Gala Dinner: "The essential role belongs to you, the members; FONASBA must be what our members want FONASBA to be. We need to work with you since we are here to serve you".

With my best personal regards,

JAVIER E. DULCE, PRESIDENT

2022 ANNUAL MEETING IN ANTWERP

After being rescheduled three times because of COVID, the Antwerp Annual Meeting finally took place between 22nd and 25th May, thankfully completely free of any restrictions. A total of 78 delegates and partners attended the meeting from 30 countries, including Cabo Verde, Chile and Mauretania participating for the first time.

The programme followed the tried and tested format, with the Executive Committee meeting being followed by the plenary meetings of ECASBA, the Ship Broker, Ship Agent, Association Best Practices and Inspiring our Future Committees, finishing with the Council Meeting, a more detailed report of which can be found on the following page.

Following an introduction by Antwerp Vice Mayor and Alderman of the Port Annick de Ridder, herself the daughter of a ship agent, the ECASBA plenary, chaired by Marco Tak, started with a presentation of recent developments in EU maritime and customs policy, with the latter subject being covered by ECASBA's Brussels representative Frank Janssens, also attending his first Annual Meeting. The implementation of version 2 of the Import Control System in the maritime sector in March 2024 will change the way ship agents in the EU report inbound cargo and a presentation by Klemen Oven, Head of Sector, Risk Management and Security (Unit A.3) at DG-TAXUD, provided delegates with detailed information on the new processes and procedures. *(Copies of all the presentations given at the Antwerp Annual Meeting can be downloaded from the Members' Area of the FONASBA website).* The meeting concluded with the delegates breaking out into groups to discuss the impact on European ship agents of criminal activities, environmental developments such as the Green Deal, the current disruption in the logistics sector and the impact of the conflict in Ukraine.

Fulvio Carlini FICS, Chair of the Ship Broker Committee, had structured his plenary meeting around three discussion panels, covering the relationship between the ship broker and ship agent, the actions of shipbrokers in response to recent market developments and the impact of online platforms on the work of the broker. His meeting also looked at the 2022 revision of BIMCO's much-used GENCON charterparty (which refers to the FONASBA Quality Standard) and included another update from ITIC on issues giving rise to claims by brokers and agents. Mark Brattman, Claims Director of ITIC presented this report, having taken over from Andrew Jamieson MICS on his retirement last year.

Both Mark and Stinne Taiger Ivø, Director, Contracts & Support at BIMCO, were attending the meeting for the first time.

The Ship Agent plenary, chaired by Simone Carlini MICS, discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the ship agency sector and launched the FONASBA Infectious Diseases Protocols, drafted in the wake of the pandemic to guide ship agents in continuing to provide services to ships and crews in any future "public health emergency of international concern" as they are described by the World Health Organisation (see page 3). Following the launch earlier this year of FONASBA's Sustainable Development Declaration, Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, Regional Vice President for the Middle East & South Asia, and also a renowned expert on climate change and sustainability, made a presentation on the benefits for ship agency in a developing green shipping world. A presentation by the Cruise Lines Industry Association (CLIA), on the post-COVID recovery in the sector, completed the meeting agenda.

Jeanne Cardona chaired the Association Best Practices plenary which also covered the post-COVID recovery, albeit from the perspective of the national associations, hearing presentations from Argentina, Jordan and South Africa on how they remained engaged with their members and continued to provide value-added services during the pandemic. Looking forward, the meeting also broke into discussion groups to consider the impact of digitalisation on membership associations, how to interact better with individual members and options for better engagement and communication in the future.

The first physical meeting of the Inspiring our Future Committee (formed in 2019, previously it had only convened virtually) opened with a virtual address by Vice Prime Minister and Minister for the North Sea Vincent Van Quickenborne. Committee Chair Raymond Troch then hosted presentations and discussions on the Port and Agent of the Future, with the Port of Antwerp and representatives of local shipping and agency companies providing insight on the impact of digitalisation, automation and other technologies on the sector. The meeting then concluded with a presentation by Young Agent and Broker of the Year winner Ana Garcia de Los Rios on the issues covered in her winning paper "The Impact of Technologies in the Maritime Sector from a Ship Agent's Vision"

ANTWERP COUNCIL MEETING, FONASBA OFFICERS ELECTED

The 2022 Council meeting took place on Wednesday 25th May.

As is customary, the meeting attended to the obligatory financial reporting and also received updates on developments at the London Secretariat, activity by the Regional Vice Presidents, the expanded education programme and relationships with external organisations and bodies. In addition, Council also decided on the host association for the 2024 Annual Meeting and elected a new President and Executive Committee.

With it having been agreed previously that the Bahrain meeting, originally scheduled for October 2022, would be moved to October 2023, an invitation was issued in January this year to associations to volunteer to host FONASBA in 2024. Greece, Jordan and Turkey all applied and three excellent bids were reviewed by the Executive Committee before being passed to Council for a decision. All three associations made detailed presentations to the delegates and Full (voting) members were then invited to participate in a secret ballot that led to Jordan being selected as the venue.

The meeting also received an update presentation from the Bahrain Shipping Agents Association on their plans for the 2023 meeting.

With the mandate of the previous Executive Committee having been extended as a result of COVID-19, this Council Meeting saw the election of a new Committee to serve until October 2024.

With no alternative candidates having been nominated by the membership, the following were elected to serve as FONASBA Officers:

President: Javier E. Dulce (Argentina)

Executive Vice President : Botond Szalma (Hungary)

President Designate and Chair, Ship Broker Committee: Fulvio Carlini FICS (Italy)

Regional Vice President Africa: Mohamed Mouselhy (Egypt)

Regional Vice President Americas: Waldemar Rocha jnr. (Brazil)

Regional Vice President Asia: Takazo Iigaki

Regional Vice President Europe and Chair, Association Best Practices Committee: Antonio Belmar da Costa (Portugal)

Regional Vice President Middle East & South Asia: Dr. Dureid Mahasneh (Jordan)

Education Vice President: Capt. Jakov Karmelić (Croatia)

Chair, ECASBA: Marco Tak (Netherlands)

Chair, Inspiring our Future Committee: Raymond Troch (Belgium)

Chair, Ship Agent Committee: Simone Carlini MICS (Italy)

Although not elected, Immediate Past President Aziz Mantrach remains an Officer of the Federation for this term.

At the end of the Meeting, Council expressed their grateful thanks to Immediate Past President John A. Foord FICS (Great Britain), and Association Best Practices Chair Jeanne Cardona (USA), who were stepping down from the Executive Committee.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROTOCOLS PUBLISHED

As reported on page 2, the FONASBA Infectious Diseases Protocols, subtitled "Keeping Agents Safe On Board", were launched at the Antwerp Ship Agency Plenary meeting.

Designed to guide ship agents in the continued provision of services to vessels and crews in a future pandemic, they are based on examples of best practice provided by member associations.

Whilst hoping they will never been needed, the Protocols were circulated to Members in July and a copy can be downloaded from the FONASBA website at: www.fonasba.com/keeping-agents-safe-on-board-fonasba-infectious-diseases-protocols

KEEPING AGENTS SAFE ON BOARD

INFECTIOUS DISEASES PROTOCOLS FOR SHIP AGENTS

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has amply demonstrated both the impact a "public health emergency of international concern", (as defined in the WHO's International Health Regulation) can have on the international maritime sector and the resilience, flexibility, and ingenuity of that sector in adapting to the changed circumstances and ensuring that goods continue to move.

The pandemic has also accelerated the use of digital technology and the streamlining of procedures to reduce the levels of personal contact required to ensure the requirements and obligations of the ship-port interface can be carried out, whilst also reducing opportunities for the spread of a communicable disease between the ship and shore. At the same time, concerns about the detrimental impact on the mental health of seafarers resulting from the cancellation of crew changes, reduced human contact and bans on shore leave, have increased significantly.

As the primary contact between the ship and the shore, the ship agent is deeply involved in all these issues and their continued engagement on operational, husbandry and pastoral matters is vital in keeping ships moving and international trade flowing, whilst also addressing the needs of the crew.

To ensure that ship agents can continue to provide the highest and widest possible levels of service to ships and their crews during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and any future public health emergency of international concern therefore, FONASBA has drafted these protocols.

COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS

The ship agent operates alongside, and in concert with, all the stakeholders in the ship-to-shore interface and therefore complies with all necessary requirements, regulations and protocols including, but not limited to: the World Health Organisation *International Health Regulations 2005*, the International Maritime Organisation *Convention on Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic (the IMO FAL Convention)*, the European Commission *Guidelines for Border Management Measures to Protect Health and Ensure the*

MEMBERSHIP NEWS (www.fonasba.com/fonasba-member/fonasba-membership-list)

Since the last Newsletter, we are pleased to welcome one new Full Member and three Associate Members, namely:

Full:

Georgian Association of Maritime Agents & Brokers, Georgia

Associate:

Navico Shipping, North Macedonia

Maritima Dominicana S.A.S. (MARDOM), Dominican Republic

Ben Line Agencies (Malaysia) Sdn., Bhd, Malaysia

It is particularly pleasing to have the Georgian association in membership, those with very long memories will recall that the association was a member up to 2004, when internal issues led to their resignation. Having recently reformed, we were very pleased to receive their application for re-admission and then to welcome the association back into the FONASBA family.

Although North Macedonia is a landlocked country, Navico Shipping charter and operate short sea and feeder vessels via a subsidiary office in Durrës, Albania, and provide freight forwarding and inland transport services in North Macedonia itself.

MARDOM is a large agency company based in Santo Domingo with offices in five other ports across the Dominican Republic. In addition to its agency activities, it offers a range of other maritime services, including stevedoring.

Ben Line Agencies Malaysia, as the name suggests, is part of the Ben Line Group that operates across 16 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Ben Line Malaysia itself operates from 17 offices serving all ports in both West- and East-Malaysia. Their presence in membership provides a welcome increase in our coverage of the Pacific region

All four members are very welcome to our Federation and we look forward very much to their active participation in our activities.

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS AND ECASBA ADVISORY PANEL APPOINTED

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRS:

Following the election of the FONASBA Officers at the Antwerp Council Meeting, see page 2, the Standing Committee Chairs were tasked with selecting their Vice Chairs and, in the case of ECASBA, formally appointing its Advisory Panel.

Committee Vice Chairs are not subject to election, instead they are nominated by the respective Chair and endorsed by the Executive Committee. The same process applies to the members of the ECASBA Advisory Panel.

Following due deliberation, the following have been endorsed by the Executive Committee as Vice Chairs for the current term:

Association Best Practices Committee: Mrs. Berit Blomqvist (Sweden)

ECASBA: Jean-Pascal Bidoire (France)

Inspiring our Future: Julio Delfino (Argentina)

Ship Agent Committee: Nomination awaited

Ship Broker Committee: Mohamed El Mezouar (Morocco)

ECASBA ADVISORY PANEL:

ECASBA Chair Marco Tak nominated the following as members of the Advisory Panel, and they too were duly endorsed by the Executive Committee:

Vice Chair: Jean-Pascal Bidoire (France)

Panel Members:

Mrs. Hilde Bruggeman (Belgium)

Antonio Belmar da Costa (Portugal) Co-opted: Regional Vice President for Europe

Jesper Sebbelin FICS (Denmark)

Botond Szalma (Hungary)

Vito Totorizzo (Italy)

Frank Janssens, the ECASBA Brussels representative, is also co-opted to the Advisory Panel.

As is usual practice, the Panel members will be invited to shadow specific issues currently impacting on ship agents in the European Union, supporting the Chair and General Manager in the development of appropriate policies.

QUALITY STANDARD (www.fonasba.com/fonasba-initiatives/fonasba-quality-standard)

As no new applications for the Standard have been received since the last Newsletter, it remains operational in 45 countries, namely: Algeria, Argentina, the ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire & Curaçao), Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Dubai, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Uruguay and the USA.

Despite the reach of the Standard remaining unchanged in recent months, it has recently enjoyed a significant increase in its global recognition through the inclusion of references to it in UN/CEFACT Recommendation 45, (Minimum Standards for Ship Agents and Ship Brokers), the FONASBA/BIMCO Agency Appointment and General Agency Agreements and the soon to be released GENCON 2022, the latest version of the most commonly used charterparty in maritime transport.

The references in these documents will ensure that the FONASBA Quality Standard is publicised widely within the ship owning, ship operating and chartering communities and thus ensure that demand for agents approved to the Standard will begin to increase as it becomes better known across these sectors. Our thanks go to UN/CEFACT and BIMCO for their support of the FQS.

We would therefore encourage all those associations not yet covered by the Standard to review the appropriate minimum criteria and begin the process of developing their own. Full information on the requirements and criteria can be downloaded from the FQS webpage, the address of which is shown above.

Different criteria apply to Associate members and accreditation to ISO 9001 is a pre-requisite for approval. Those meeting that requirement should apply to the Secretariat for further guidance.

EDUCATION (www.fonasba.com/education-and-training)



One of the highlights of the FONASBA education year was the presentation of the Young Ship Agent or Ship Broker of the Year Award to Ana Garcia de los Rios of Spain at the Antwerp Annual Meeting, (left), where she also received prizes from FONASBA and our Award Sponsors BIMCO and ITIC. The 2022 Award is now in its

final stages with completed papers being received by the Review Committee. The winner will be announced on 30th September.

FONASBA's suite of education programmes has recently been enhanced with the launch of the Certificate in the Fundamentals of Shipbroking, supported by the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, and the FONASBA ACB Tramp Shipping course, another collaboration with ACB, the Barcelona Ship Agents' Association. The Fundamentals of Shipbroking course is a fully online course, with the content covering all aspects of the ship broking profession. After completing the course of study, students take an online examination with a pass-mark of 80%. Students can start this course at any time, but it should be completed within 12 weeks.

Further information on the course can be found in the flyer on the following pages, or from your national association.

Similar to other ACB courses, the Tramp Shipping course comprises a series of video lectures (seven in this case and available for offline viewing) and other study materials. Each module is followed by an online assessment and successful entrants receive a certificate of completion. The first course will start on 13th October and finish on 4th December. The closing date for registrations is 5th October. A flyer for this course also follows and further information can be obtained from your national association.

As a reminder, the other FONASBA courses are:

The FONASBA Agent Diploma: An online course for new entrants to the ship agency sector, hosted by ASBA in the USA

The FONASBA ACB Liner Shipping Transportation Course: A modular course for those in the liner sector.

The FONASBA ACB Ro/Ro Shipping Course: A Spanish-language course designed for those working in the Ro/Ro sector.

Further information on all our courses can be obtained from the website, www.fonasba.com, click on the Education & Training tab.



FONASBA

FONASBA CERTIFICATE IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SHIP BROKING

FONASBA Certificate in the Fundamentals of Shipbroking

Providing an introduction to the Shipbroking profession

Running in parallel with FONASBA's courses for ship agents, this new course has been developed with support of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) to provide an introduction to those new to the ship broking profession. It will also be of interest to others who may wish to expand their knowledge of other sectors of the maritime industry.

Why take the course?

- Developed by the market leader in the provision of education and training to ship brokers at all levels
- The course is designed to complement on the job training and is structured to fit around the needs of the student and their employer
- Online delivery via the ICS Online Academy
- Students learn at their own pace and take the examination when ready
- A comprehensive set of three modules covering broad aspects of the shipbroking profession, Modules are supported with dedicated learning materials and discussion fora
- The course is exclusively available to companies that are members of FONASBA national associations, or are themselves FONASBA Associate members
- Administration of the course is via the national association*

Further information can be found overleaf and at: www.fonasba.com/fonasba-shipbroking-course

**CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO SIGN UP YOUR
STUDENTS TODAY!**

* For information and contact details of your national association, go to www.fonasba.com/fonasba-member/fonasba-membership-list



FONASBA CERTIFICATE IN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF SHIP BROKING

FONASBA

FONASBA Certificate in the Fundamentals of Shipbroking

Providing an introduction to the Shipbroking profession

Further course information:

- Online course, students study at their own pace
- Register and start at any time with up to twelve weeks access to complete the course
- Course Content covers:
 - The parties to the contract;
 - Types of brokers;
 - Contracts and bills of lading;
 - Offer and acceptance;
 - Preparing the ship for the voyage;
 - Loading and discharging the cargo;
 - Delivery and redelivery, on and off-hire formalities; The mechanics of fixing the ship;
 - After the fixture;
 - International Shipping Organisations
- Dedicated learning material is provided for each module, together with a comprehensive glossary of terms and definitions and a threaded discussion forum
- Twelve week window to complete the course and take the examination
- Online 50 question examination, pass mark 75%
- Course cost includes initial examination and two retakes
- Detailed feedback provided following the examination, with guidance on areas worthy of further study

**CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO SIGN UP YOUR
STUDENTS TODAY!**

* For information and contact details of your national association, go to www.fonasba.com/fonasba-member/fonasba-membership-list



FONASBA

TRAMP SHIPPING COURSE



Barcelona Shipping
Agents Association

FONASBA

FONASBA ACB TRAMP SHIPPING COURSE

A modular qualification for agents in the tramp shipping sector

1st Edition: 13th October to 4th December 2022



FONASBA



Barcelona Shipping
Agents Association

The Shipping Agency In Tramp Business FONASBA ACB Online Course

From October 13th to December 4th, 2022

"Maritime transport is essential to the world's economy as over 90% of the world's trade is carried by sea and it is, by far, the most cost-effective way to move goods and raw materials en masse around the world."

IMO Profile. Business UN Organization. <https://business.un.org/en/entities/13>

FONASBA is once again partnering with the Barcelona Shipping Agents' Association to offer companies in membership of FONASBA national associations a new course for ship agents, this time focussing on the tramp business. Sitting alongside and complimenting the very popular FONASBA Agent Diploma, this course covers the needs of the tramp sector in greater depth, comprising seven modules on subjects ranging from the variety of ships and the cargoes carried, to more detailed topics such as the commercial and financial management of a tramp agency operation and ancillary activities such as bunkering and vessel inspections.

Like the other courses offered by FONASBA and ACB (the Liner Transportation and Spanish-language Ro/Ro Shipping courses), this is based around a series of video tutorials, self-study and discussion fora hosted by the subject lecturers. The video tutorials can be viewed in real time or downloaded for off-line viewing, so are suitable students based anywhere across FONASBA's global membership. The course therefore has fixed start and finish dates as shown above. Assessments will follow each module and students that successfully complete the course will be provided with a certificate and statement of completion.

The course is administered by ACB and full details of how to register your employees, the fees payable and other information are provided in the attached course booklet. The main points are summarised overleaf. **The closing date for registrations is 5th October 2022.**

Adequately and appropriately trained agency staff are vital for supporting your principals. FONASBA therefore recommends that your company enters its employees in this course.

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FONASBA

TRAMP SHIPPING COURSE

FONASBA

FONASBA ACB TRAMP SHIPPING COURSE

1st Edition: 13th October to 4th December 2022

Summary of course details: (See the course booklet for more detailed information).

Course Commitment:

It is anticipated that the course will take approximately 42 hours to complete all seven modules.

Course Fees:

The cost of the course, including all course materials and the module assessment fees is €700.00, plus VAT if applicable. Payment must be made by bank transfer (credit card payments are not possible) and details will be provided on registration. Entry to the course will only be provided once payment is received.

Student Registration:

It is not possible for students based in Spain to register for this course via FONASBA. Students in Spain should register directly with ACB.

Companies wishing to register their employees should do so by contacting ACB at: acb@consignatarios.com with a copy to FONASBA at: admin@fonasba.com. The email should include confirmation of which FONASBA national association the company is a member.

Study Programme:

Once registered, students will be contacted directly by ACB who will provide all the relevant information, including study resources, details of how to access the online lectures, contact details for tutors and the dates by which the module assessments have to be completed.

Notification of results:

The student, will be notified by ACB on successful completion of the course and will receive a certificate and statement of completion.

Further questions:

More information can be found in the attached course guide, otherwise questions can be send to the course organisers at:

acb@consignatarios.com

FONASBA, August 2022



Barcelona Shipping
Agents Association

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EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS

ECASBA PLENARY MEETING ANTWERP

As reported on page 2, the ECASBA Plenary meeting, chaired by Marco Tak of the Netherlands, took place on Monday, 23rd May. It reported on most of the major issues currently facing ship agents in the EU and a copy of the presentations given at the meeting can be downloaded from the Members' Area of the website.

This was followed by a visit to Brussels in early June, during which visits were made by Mr. Tak and General Manager Jonathan Williams to DG-TAXUD (ICS2), DG-MOVE (EMSWe), DG-HOME (Exit Stamps for Seafarers and EES/ETIAS) and to DG-SANTE (Veterinary Controls). Meetings were also held with the European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA) and the World Shipping Council (WSC).

This article goes into some of those issues in greater detail and updates the actions being taken to address them.

POLICY ACTIONS

EES/ETIAS:

As reported in previous issues of this Newsletter, the new Entry and Exit System (EES) and the linked European Traveller Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) have suffered significant delays in implementation, due to technical issues within the systems themselves and also a reluctance by land, sea and air carriers to register with eu-LISA, the EU agency setting up the programmes, and to undertake pre-launch testing of the carrier interface. In recent days, eu-LISA have issued a list of carriers that have signed up to the programme and to date only 830 have done so, with a significant majority coming from the air sector. As all commercial carriers bringing passengers to the EU across all transport modes must register, it is clear there is a long way to go.

As a result, the entry into service date for EES has been put back to mid-May 2023 and ETIAS will become operational in mid-November 2023. In order to minimise the impact of the EES, which eu-LISA and DG-HOME freely admit will lead to increased queues for third-country nationals, it is expected that a transitional period of up to nine months will be introduced. This period will allow border authorities to apply specific exemptions from the full procedures. Manual stamping of passports will also be allowed for at least three months after the go-live date to allow for system breakdowns and communication failures.

For ship agents, one concern will be the impact on

crew members travelling on Seafarer Identification Documents. At the most recent meeting of the Carrier Working Group, eu-LISA advised that the procedures for handling incoming seafarers were still under consideration and further guidance would be issued.

ECASBA is represented on the Carrier Working Group by Jesper Sebbelin FICS, with ECASBA Vice Chair Jean-Pascal Bidoire and General Manager Jonathan Williams also monitoring developments.

EXIT STAMPS FOR SEAFARERS:

Coordinated action between ECASBA and ECSA has resulted in DG-HOME issuing guidance to Member State authorities on the validity of exit stamps when issued on arrival in a Schengen region country. In the absence of clear guidance, concern was raised that Member States could implement different limits on validity, resulting in uneven application of the measures within the EU. Following the interventions by ECASBA and ECSA however, guidance has now been issued stating a minimum validity of three days should apply, but recommending that seven to ten days would be a more workable timeframe. It is hoped that Member States will take note and ensure a level playing field across Europe on this issue.

CUSTOMS UPDATE:

The introduction of ICS 2 for the maritime sector in March 2024 is currently the main issue for ship agents and others engaged in making customs entries and, as reported on page 2, was the topic of a dedicated presentation at the Antwerp meeting given by Klemen Oven of DG-TAXUD. Regular updates will be provided to members as we approach the implementation date for ICS 2.

Elsewhere, there is concern amongst trade associations at the lack of coordination in the alignment and implementation of EU customs systems, notably ICS 2 and those required under the Union Customs Code. Traders face the same issues trying to modify their systems to address the new UCC requirements as they do for ICS 2, and the Trade Contact Group, the consultative body for trade and the Commission on customs issues, has been regularly pressing DG-TAXUD to address these issues and so avoid duplication of effort and unnecessary additional costs.

Unfortunately TAXUD have so far failed to provide any such guidance and this led to ECASBA and WSC sending a joint letter to national customs authorities

Continued on page 11

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENTS: CONTD./

(Continued from page 10)

to ascertain their plans for implementation of the new systems and also encourage them to coordinate their actions through DG-TAXUD.

Whilst all these changes to customs procedures are imminent, the Commission is looking even further forward by engaging a panel of experts to look at the medium to long-term future of customs in the European Union. They recently produced the “Wise Persons Report” that has proposed a package of reforms relating to processes, responsibilities, liabilities and the governance of the Customs Union.

In addition, DG-TAXUD has opened a public consultation on the reform of the Union Customs Code with a view to making it more efficient and responsive to current challenges thrown up by Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation in Ukraine and also recent developments in e-commerce and international trade. The survey has been circulated to ECASBA members with a request that they respond, and ECASBA itself will be doing likewise.

EMSWe (Single Windows/Vessel Reporting)

One of the main issues hindering progress on the European Maritime Single Window environment project remains the size and complexity of Part C of the vessel reporting requirements, that is the national and local data. Despite a detailed review process, Part C still comprises more than 600 items, 63% of which are individual to a single Member State.

In order to overcome this significant hurdle, some Member States have decided they will not report Part C data to the European Single Window.

The practical use of harmonised spreadsheets is another factor of concern, particularly in relation to the potential size of the spreadsheet and the need to include data for all European ports, some of which may not always be required for the state/port the vessel is heading to. According to DG-MOVE, the master spreadsheet template will remain unchanged, but Member States will have the opportunity to customise it to meet their own national requirements.

The same concerns relating to the timetable and investment required for implementation of the various customs systems apply equally to the implementation of the EMSWe but DG-MOVE are actively encouraging dialogue and discussion with Member States and trade in order to ensure a smooth entry into service of the EMSWe in late 2025.

As always, ECASBA remains engaged on all these issues, working with colleague associations where a joint approach is appropriate and likely to achieve a better outcome. That said, many of the issues currently facing ship agents across the ECASBA membership arise as a result of Member State governments individually interpreting and implementing EU rules and regulations. It is therefore vital that member associations also remain closely engaged with their national authorities to ensure that those measures are introduced with minimal detrimental effect on their member companies.

As always, our thanks go to Frank Janssens, Jesper Sebbelin FICS, Capt. Peter Langbein and Bastian Güttner for representing ECASBA on some of the many working and consultative groups covering these topics.

ECASBA EUROPEAN SEMINAR

The next ECASBA seminar will be held on Tuesday, 25th October in Greece, kindly supported by the International Maritime Union.

Detailed plans are currently being developed and further information will be provided to members in due course. Unlike some previous seminars, this one will be held on one single day, followed by the traditional dinner.

Whilst primarily aimed at ECASBA members, the seminar is open to representatives of any FONASBA member, whether based in Europe or elsewhere, and they are very welcome to attend. Decisions taken in Europe affect anyone that is trading with, or sending ships to, EU ports and therefore the topics discussed are of interest to all.

EUROPEAN SHIPPING SUMMIT 2023

What was previously European Shipping Week has now been rebranded as a Shipping Summit, and the event is now organised by a group of European shipping sector associations, led by ECSA.

ECASBA has been a member of the Steering Group since the first Shipping Week and we are actively engaged in preparing for this new venture. It will take place in Brussels in late Spring 2023 and be built around a one-day high-level conference aimed at legislators and regulators. Individual associations can also host side events around the conference.

Further information will be provided as the plans are firmed up.

PHOTO PAGES:

The Photo Pages in this issue look back to the Antwerp Annual Meeting.



Top left: The Executive Committee meeting on 22nd May. Top right: The iconic Antwerp Port House hosted the Welcome Reception. Lower left: Delegates attending the ECASBA Plenary Meeting, Lower right: Enjoying the partner programme.



*Delegates, partners and guests
enjoying the concluding Gala
Dinner at the Antwerp Stock
Exchange*

PHOTO PAGES:

The Photo Pages in this issue look back to the Antwerp Annual Meeting.



FONASBA Young Ship Agent or Ship Broker of the Year Ward Winner 2022, Ana Garcia de los Rios, receives her prizes from (left to right): Mark Brattman of ITIC, FONASBA President Aziz Mantrach and Stinne Taiger Ivø of BIMCO, watched by FONASBA Education Vice President Capt. Jakov Karmelić



Left: Outgoing President Aziz Mantrach presents the badge of office to incoming President Javier Dulce during the formal handover ceremony at the Antwerp Gala Dinner. Right: Aziz Mantrach thanks the FONASBA members for their support during his presidency.



Left: New President Javier Dulce addresses the Antwerp Gala Dinner. Right: Retiring Best Practices Committee Chair Jeanne Cardona and Past President John A. Foord FICS contemplate life beyond FONASBA!

