

Dear Participants in the Short Sea Conference 14 in Lisbon 12/13 May 2014

Please find hereunder a summary of the conclusions of the Short Sea 14 Conference received from Alfons Guinier. Thanks Alfons. In attachment we included the Athens Declaration and the public support to it from ECASBA.

As stressed by Alfons Short sea shipping is alive and when the Athens declaration will hopefully be formally adopted at the Transport Council in June it is also our responsibility to bring to real life the political commitment of the Commission. I am sure that the Short Sea Promotion Centres will be able to reply pro actively to the challenges of the Athens declaration and soon I expect we can come with some news regarding the ESN structure and future role.

I take this opportunity to thank again Alfons Guinier, Marco Sorgetti, John Corres, Jean Marie Millour, Vitor Caldeirinha, François Soulet de Brugiére, Giovanni Bandini, Antonio Vargas, Hugo Franco, Stefan Heintjes, Eduard Rodés, Markku Milly, Martin Fournier, Hans Haram, Guy Adams, Fernando Delgado, Gilles Guyonnet-Dupérat, Jorge Dias, Brigitte Segers, Nicolette Van der Jagt, Jonathan Williams, Fabien Becquelin and Patrick Verhoeven for the precious contribution for the success of Short Sea 14.

Finally a special thank to the Portuguese Secretary of State of Transport, to Nuno Sanches Osório, to João Carvalho and to Luis Valente de Oliveira for giving us the honor of opening and closing the Conference.

Short Sea Conference 14 Lisboa 12/13 May 2014

- **The promotion of short sea shipping is alive and kicking. In particular intermodal and logistic short sea services.**
- **The input of the shippers during the exchange of views at the conference was very much welcomed. Shippers made it clear that short sea shipping is the most sustainable transport mode and addressed clear requests to the transport providers. This will open new opportunities.**
- **The conference fully supported the Athens Declaration as brought forward by Transport Ministers on the 7th May 2014. The reinforcement of the promotion activities and the support to ESN and the SPCs is very much appreciated.**
- **The conference hopes that the Athens declaration will be formally adopted at the Transport Council meeting in June.**
- **The good intentions have now to be acted upon in practice with clear decisions on:**
 - **The follow up to the Blue Belt project: It is unacceptable that shipping is the only transport mode where the common market principles do not fully apply. In this respect Governments and the Commission are urged to get a breakthrough on the outstanding issue of the E-Manifest.**

- Progress should be made to the application of the Single Window. Red Tape on board of the ship and ashore should be banned.

 - The Sulphur file: The establishment of the European Sustainable Shipping Forum (ESSF) is appreciated. However, the ESSF should not be a talking shop only and/or be used as a fig leaf to do nothing. On the basis of the discussions within ESSF action should be taken to find solutions to the problems created by the application of 0.1% sulphur content as from 01.01.2015 in the ECAs.

 - The use of LNG as alternative fuel has been referred to repeatedly through the exchange of views at the conference. Bunkering in the main short sea ports is not yet possible. The safety rules should also be reassessed.

 - The use of pallet wide 45 ft containers offers new opportunities. Therefore the 150 km limitation should be withdrawn immediately allowing efficient use of the 45 ft containers in multimodal short sea transport.

 - The conference noted with regret that in some ports the freedom to provide services is still hampered by restrictions. It is hoped that the next Commission and the new EP will eventually come forward with a decent port policy.
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- The exchange of views and the active participation of all at 14th short sea conference is very much appreciated. It clearly confirmed that many opportunities that lie ahead for the further promotion and use of this sustainable transport mode.

 - The above comments and suggestions should be submitted to the Council, the new Commission and the new Parliament.