

Media Release – 5 October 2016

**“Our industry should be proud of its achievements”
Intercargo holds Annual General, Executive & Technical Committee meetings**

London, UK: INTERCARGO (The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners) held on October 3rd and 4th its Technical Committee meeting, followed by a Gala dinner, the Executive Committee and Annual General Meetings, and industry-focused presentations.

INTERCARGO re-iterated its commitment to a safe, efficient, high quality and environmentally-friendly dry cargo shipping industry, and its support for an industry governed by free and fair competition. The meetings were coordinated by Chairman John Platsidakis, Vice Chairmen Capt Jay Pillai and Mr Nicky Pappadakis, and Technical Committee Chairman Mr Dimitris Fafalios. Main topics were the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention, the Safe Carriage of Cargoes, the availability of Reception Facilities for Hazardous to the Marine Environment cargo residues and cargo hold washing, Air Emissions / CO₂, Design Standards of Bulk carriers and related equipment, and piracy.

INTERCARGO will continue its efforts to persuade MoUs to establish self-assessment procedures with the objective of targeting corruption within their areas. Also, the importance of States timely submission of casualty investigation reports to IMO was again stressed: it was considered an important tool for identifying the cause of incidents and enabling corrective actions to be taken.

The Chairman John Platsidakis thanked the members for their solid support especially in view of the very challenging days for the dry cargo shipping, and expressed his optimism for the outlook of the sector. He also thanked the Secretariat for their support, and especially Mr David Tongue, the retiring Secretary General, for his valuable contribution and wished to maintain contact in the future, while welcomed Dr Kostas Gkonis as INTERCARGO's new Secretary General.

David Tongue said “It had been an honour and a pleasure to represent the INTERCARGO membership, all of which had strived to improve our industry with a continued dedication and passion throughout the difficult market conditions being experienced, I am proud to have been associated with INTERCARGO's efforts to try to ensure safety for our ships and crews, particularly in our efforts to raise awareness and counter the dangers that may be encountered when carrying bulk cargoes that may liquefy”. He continued “I am pleased to be able to leave the very able INTERCARGO Secretariat in the good hands of Kostas Gkonis and look forward to learning of the further improvements and contribution the Association will undoubtedly continue to provide for the bulk carrier industry”

“The dry cargo and shipping industry should be proud of their record in these fields”, said Dr Gkonis “Our members are faced with difficult market conditions, while expectations on the regulatory front remain high: after the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, some are waiting round the corner to criticise shipping's response at IMO level. Yet before having to prove anything more, shipping should already be proud of its achievements as the most environmentally-friendly transport mode. It is our responsibility to communicate this message”, adding that “in these challenging times, the role entrusted to me fills me with great honour and even more so with responsibility. As a team we will do our best to fill the experience gap to be left by our retiring Secretary General”.

About INTERCARGO: The Association was established in 1980 with the objective of giving a voice to shipowners, managers and operators of dry cargo vessels and better represent this shipping sector. Our Members commit to a safe, efficient, high quality and environmentally-friendly dry cargo shipping industry. INTERCARGO is an accredited NGO observer at IMO. Together with BIMCO, ICS and INTERTANKO, they form the Round Table of International Shipping Associations. INTERCARGO considers that free and fair competition in the shipping industry is of fundamental importance and this serves as its prime principle.