

**Ladies and Gentlemen good evening.**

**My warmest thanks and appreciation to Seatrade Awards and the Judge's Committee for giving me the Seatrade Personality of the Year 2019 Award**

**I am deeply honored to receive this Award.**

**If I were to start a professional carrier today, I would have chosen the very same one as the one I have done.**

**In order though to be fair and open to you, I have to admit that I did not choose it deliberately 41 years ago.**

**By pure coincidence, I found myself in banking, mostly ship finance banking, and then into the real world of shipping having concluded a few months ago 31 years with the Angelicoussis Shipping Group. What an additional coincidence that Seatrade Awards is also having its 31st anniversary today!**

**I consider myself very lucky that I happened to serve this sector which is dynamic, ongoing and full of challenging events.**

**An industry which fascinated the imagination of the ancient people, such as Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, and which has its roots some ten thousand years ago when the mineral opsidian was transported from the island of Milos to Peloponnese, to the days of the Austronesians in the Indo-Pacific area, of the Phoenicians in the Mediterranean, of ancient Egypt, of the Minoan civilization in Crete, of the Athenian civilization, of Alexander the Great's long advancement towards Persia, India and Afghanistan, of the Vikings and so on up to our recent times.**

**An industry which moves goods and, with them, brings civilizations, cultures and people closer.**

**An industry though which, despite its huge contribution to the welfare and standards of living of our societies today, does not have the adequate appreciation and respect which it should have had.**

**If I have left a tiny foot print towards the advancement of shipping, its image and its contribution to our society, that will be the most precious reward for me.**

**It was an honor to address yourselves and, once again, thank so much Seatrade Awards for honoring me tonight.**

**John Platsidakis  
London, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**