

Intercargo's Gala Dinner

3rd October 2019 - 19:30

Ekali Club

Minister for Maritime affairs and Island Policy, esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen.

A warm welcome to the Intercargo dinner here in Athens.

Our meetings take place every two years in this city and this year we are especially honoured to have our Shipping Minister, the current chairman of ECSA, the chairmen of the GSCC as well as members and guests from more than twelve countries attending.

The presence of our Shipping Minister demonstrates the importance that Greece gives to shipping and especially to dry bulk shipping.

This international make-up of Intercargo is fully reflected in its membership with over 2,200 vessels managed by 142 Members' companies each striving for a higher level of safety than the industry average. We are also grateful to our 79 Associate Members.

Indeed, all our members are proud participants in the dry bulk shipping sector which today encompasses over 11,000 bulk carriers with a combined deadweight of about 840 million tons. Intercargo members represent 20% of the fleet basis numbers of ships and 25% basis dwt.

Dry bulk shipping has become one of the most significant sectors in shipping transporting “must have” commodities every day in a safe and energy efficient manner.

Our sector’s energy efficiency is amongst the best in the business and Intercargo will take this message forward and give it the publicity it deserves. Our sector must be proud of this.

We must, however, not rest on our laurels, our sector must improve it’s energy efficiency in order to meet and exceed the ambitious IMO Goals for 2030 and 2050.

This efficiency improvement must not be won without safety and quality, two of Intercargo’s core beliefs.

Safety and quality are achieved through our members hands-on approach through prudent ship management but predominantly through our most valuable and prized assets: Our officers and crew on board and our teams ashore.

Similarly, Intercargo’s strength is the hands-on approach of our membership, our secretariat, our Executive Committee, our Technical Committee and our Management Committee.

Our Technical Committee met today under the able leadership of Tom Keenan and Dimitris Monioudis as vice-chairman. Our thanks to both of them.

The critical issues which concern us all, every day, were fully discussed. Ballast water management, cargoes, bulk carrier design standards and air emissions were on the agenda and clear recommendations have been put forward to our Executive Committee for immediate action.

Ed Wroe, our Technical Manager from the Intercargo Secretariat ably assisted the Technical Committee and we fully appreciate his efforts.

Kostas Gkoni (Secretary General), Joe Zhou (Operations Manager), Paul Markides (Marine Quality Manager) who recently joined us, and Tonya Dendrinou (Administration Officer), all deserve our greatest appreciation for their tireless efforts in serving our membership. Thank you all.

Special appreciation must also go to our two Intercargo Vice-chairmen, Jay Pillai of Pacific Basin and Spyros Tarassis of Olympic Shipping. Thank you both.

This evening we are truly honoured to have 3 past Chairmen of our Association with us:

1. Spyros Polemis
2. Nicky Pappadakis
3. John Platsidakis

Spyro and Nicky looked after Intercargo when the association was less healthy than it is today. Their efforts, knowledge and wisdom can never be under-estimated. Spyro and Nicky we are extremely grateful.

John Platsidakis also guided Intercargo through difficult times but through his discipline, confidence and resourcefulness left us an association which is strong, modernized, lean and effective for its members. John, thank you.

On a special note, our Association is turning 40 next year and we are looking forward to celebrate this event with a special publication prepared by Elias Bissias and his team from Naftika Chronika/Gratia Publications.

Grateful thanks this evening to the Ekali Club, Eleni for her help and our string duo, *Soul 'n Passion* for entertaining us.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen in the great tradition started by my predecessor, I will attempt to predict the BDI (Baltic Dry Index) for October 2020. An eternal optimist, I am looking for at least 3800 by next year!

Thank you very much and enjoy your dinner.

Dimitris J. Fafalios
Chairman