

## TRIPARTITE MEETING – INTERCARGO Vice-Chairman S. Tarasis opening speech

Dear Lady/ies and Gentlemen ....

You have to bear with me as it is the first time I have to address such an esteemed audience.

So ...

On behalf of INTERCARGO as the coordinating Roundtable association this year, tasked with presiding over the meeting and chairing the opening and closing sessions and our Chairman Mr Dimitris Fafalios who could not be with us, I have the honor to welcome you all to the 2019 Tripartite meeting.

I must begin by expressing our deepest condolences and sympathy to the Japanese people for the many lives lost in the typhoon which lashed Tokyo and the nearby prefectures on Saturday. We really hope that death toll will not rise any more, missing persons will be found, and all people will be able to return to their peaceful ordinary lives as soon as possible.

I wish to thank, ClassNK for hosting an excellent welcome reception last night and the Japanese Shipowners' Association for making all necessary arrangements for this year's meeting.

The annual meeting of **ship owners, shipbuilders and classification societies**, provides a unique opportunity, to share thoughts from three different perspectives, by giving

all three sectors a forum to meet, and address the current 'hot' topics that we find important.

It provides us all with the floor where we can explore common ground, and shape the future of the shipping industry.

The mechanism of this meeting, is established, **to advance maritime safety and environmental protection through improvements in ship design, technology and a sound regulatory programme.**

This is achieved through strengthening the dialogue between owners, shipyards and class societies, discussing regulatory changes for maritime transport that have implications for ship design and specification as well as other issues of mutual interest, **and**, promoting prompt sharing of experience with the marine industry, including machinery and equipment manufacturers.

Technical & complicated issues on our common agenda may cause misunderstandings or disagreements, **but** they should always be treated with goodwill from all sides

**A close, good and welcome cooperation is the key to success;**

Meeting participants aim to ensure that **future generations of ships, are built to meet ours, and our society's expectations,** securing maximum safety, the best efficiency, and the protection of our environment.

Having said that and representing a dry bulk shipping association, allow me to make a remark from the viewpoint of **our** sector,

Having more than 11,000 plus existing bulk carrier ships (the largest commercial shipping fleet) we always feel like the “poor relative” (as we say in Greece) when it comes to shipbuilding regulations, as our sector stands below other sectors in shipbuilding standard design specification.

For some, it may sound as a subjective view, but owners with mixed fleets can confirm based on their experience that they find it easier to improve the design and the standard building specification of a more “sophisticated” type of vessel like a tanker or a Gas carrier than a dry bulk ship. Take for example the steering gear design and operational problems as well as the fuel oil storage, treatment and **handling** systems.

### **Coming back to our meeting.**

**The commercial interests** of each one of the three participating groups will always remain slightly different.

But these differences should be understood and respected as we work towards the common goal of a safe, cost effective, and environmentally friendly shipping industry ..... that is changing ... so **MUST** we.

**TRANSPARENCY & BALANCE** in shipbuilders, shipowners, and Class relationship is paramount.

We need to reinvigorate, **revive and give new strength to this Forum** when dealing with sensitive issues even with a

commercial dimension. Our common Objective should be a more **EFFECTIVE AND HONEST RELATIONSHIP**.

There is No need to emphasize that we must strive to work together to achieve our mutual targets and benefit.

We all, each in our sector, have all the prerequisites ..... we know **WHAT** we are doing, we know **HOW** to do it well and last but not least we know **WHY**.

Closing my welcome speech I would like to summarize that the key themes at both strategic & technical level for this year's meeting, are:

- ***GHG emissions***
- ***Digitalisation***
- ***Pollution Prevention***
- ***and last but surely not least “Design Safety”***

At the end of the meeting we will need to agree on the key issues we find important and decide on how best these may be taken forward.

I wish for us all a pleasant and fruitful Tripartite Meeting.

Thank you