



Media Release - 24 September 2020

“World Maritime Day 2020: Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet”

On the occasion of the World Maritime Day 2020, INTERCARGO joins the IMO and the shipping industry in promoting “Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet”.

International shipping is vital for the **prosperity of people** all over the world as it transports approximately 90% of world trade. The **dry bulk sector** is the largest shipping sector in terms of number of ships and deadweight. Dry bulk carriers account for 43% of the world fleet (in tonnage) and sail an estimated 55% of the global transport work. They are **the workhorses of international shipping**, as they serve **essential needs**, such as food and energy supply.

Seafarers are the true “heart” of global shipping offering absolutely essential services as demonstrated especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The **Crew Change humanitarian crisis** is unfortunately ongoing. Seafarers are stranded at sea and all Governments have to formally designate seafarers and other marine personnel as “**key workers**”.

Bulk carriers employ over 350,000 seafarers annually, our sector providing continuous and well-paid jobs to hundreds of thousands of talented and committed employees, and a significant income to households in areas with high rates of unemployment.

Dry bulk shipping is necessary for maintaining and enhancing **living standards** in both developed and less-developed economies. At INTERCARGO we are proud that our sector is achieving **environmental and operational excellence** and that it contributes substantially towards meeting the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**: you are invited to view and share our video [Dry Bulk Shipping: Sustainably serving the world’s essential needs](#).

About INTERCARGO:

The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (INTERCARGO) is representing the interests of quality dry bulk shipowners, with close to 2,400 registered ships out of more than 11,000 ships in the global dry bulk fleet, corresponding to over 25% of the global dry bulk fleet basis deadweight. INTERCARGO convened for the first time in 1980 in London and has been participating with consultative status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) since 1993. INTERCARGO provides the forum where dry bulk shipowners, managers and operators are informed about, discuss and share concerns on key topics and regulatory challenges, especially in relation to safety, the environment and operational excellence. The Association takes forward its Members’ positions to the IMO, as well as to other shipping and international industry fora, having free and fair competition as a principle.