

**ECSA Vice President, Claes Berglund Address,  
Cyprus Shipping Chamber 30<sup>th</sup> AGM, May 30, 2019**

- President of the Republic,
- President of the House of Representatives,
- Shipping Minister,
- ICS Chairman,
- Chamber President, Board Members and Members,
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Friends

I am very pleased to be addressing this shipping gathering on behalf of the European Community Shipowners's Associations.

We should be very proud of European shipping. Our industry provides a fantastic service to the world with reliable, affordable and sustainable shipping services. To be able to do that we have approximately 40% of world gross tonnage in our companies. We employ close to 700 thousand people in our sector and have a total economic impact on EU GDP of 150 billion Euro which includes indirect impacts.

These are astonishing figures.

A very important part of the industry is here on Cyprus which together with a few other great shipping nations form the backbone of EU Shipping.



So we must ask ourselves, how has this been accomplished and even more important how do we grow our business even further?

I believe that this has been accomplished through a long history of brave shipowners who have built up their business with a very long-term perspective. Most shipping companies are family owned and go from one generation to the next something which is not so common in other industries.

But we must also realize that one important factor is to have wise political decisions to set the framework that we are working within.

Since we are part of EU and many decisions that affect our industry come from the EU we need to have a good representation with professional staff in Brussels. But we also need support from all members – the shipowners.

The Cyprus Shipping Chamber has proved to be a very active contributor, especially on the more strategic issues that concern European shipowners. It also played a significant role in the recent re-organisation and modernisation of ECSA. The CSC has been particularly instrumental in safeguarding the regulatory framework that ensures the competitiveness of European Shipping, especially the Commission's Guidelines for State Aid on

Maritime Transport, which allow European shipowners to compete on a global level.

is, therefore, one of ECSAs most prominent members. The contributions from your board members, such as currently, Themis Papadopoulos and Philippos Philis before, are highly appreciated and Thomas Kazakos importance in the successful development of the applications of the State Aid guidelines cannot be overestimated.

Closing the reference to Cyprus Shipping, I feel the need to state here today that ECSA is a strong promotor of a rules based multilateral trade system, governed by institutions such as the WTO. Unilateral actions, such as the Turkish Ban on Cyprus ships which many of them belong to European beneficial ownership, hamper the free flow of goods and services or target specific nations to prevent them performing transport services are condemned as strongly as possible by ECSA. Political solutions are strongly supported.

In this respect, in close cooperation with the Cyprus Shipping Chamber, ECSA has lobbied various European Institutions, namely, the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament, aiming at lifting this unilateral restrictive action, which harms European Shipping and blocks any possible Accession Process for Turkey into the EU.

Currently the focus in ECSA is:

To support the EU's free trade agenda and strongly oppose maritime protectionism.

Maintain the current application of State Aid Guidelines

Avoid regional EU legislation for shipping as much as possible through close cooperation with ICS. This is very important in many areas but especially when it comes to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Promote public funding to our industry to support innovation, digitalization and the transformation to greener shipping.

And lastly ECSA are also in an important dialogue with the social partners to secure the future competitiveness of European Shipping.

We will see a new commission later this year. This presents an opportunity for the shipping industry. Currently the Maritime and shipping issues are being discussed in many different places with little or no coordination. This needs to be changed and we call for a coordinating central shipping function.

Why not a Shipping Commissioner from Cyprus?

So, to conclude, Europe has a successful and proud history in the Maritime World and we should relentlessly continue to work to stop anything that may reduce our international competitiveness and support and suggest improvements even more success in the future. Cyprus and in particular, the Cyprus Shipping Chamber is an integral and important part of this.

On behalf of ECSA and the European Shipowning Community therefore, we warmly congratulate the Cyprus Shipping Chamber for its tangible achievements in the last three decades of its active operation and wish them even more progress and growth in the decades ahead for the overall benefit of Cyprus Shipping and the Cyprus economy.

Thank you!