



# THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter  
December 2023

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## New Year Message from the Director General

# 2024

As we embark on the New Year, we want to take a moment to thank you for your strong support over the year that passed and invite you to continue working closely together, to enable further progress and growth, taking Cyprus Shipping to new heights in 2024.

2024 marks also of the successful completion of 35 years since the Chamber's establishment. In view of this year, which is a landmark in its long history and multifaceted contribution to the Cyprus Shipping, Economy and Society in general, the Chamber will host various business, social and charity events to commemorate this occasion and we shall soon revert to advise our Members on same.

The world around us is changing rapidly, including Shipping, and we shall again be on the forefront of developments enhancing even more our mission to continue playing an instrumental role in local, international and European Shipping affairs to safeguard our Members' legitimate interests by rolling out important initiatives enabling progressing on our Chamber's policy matters.

We are well aware of the Shipping operational and policy challenges our Members, its land based staff and seafarers are facing from geopolitical developments, the effects from the war in Ukraine and Middle East to local operational issues to global environmental regulations and more. We want to remind you that we are here for you and ready to push even harder for a more sustainable and resilient Cyprus Shipping Industry.

What is clear to us, is that we would not have achieved repeated success through the years without your support and cooperation. We therefore, urge our Members to continue engaging closely with us, come forward with their needs, continue contributing with their expertise and specialised Shipping knowledge in our Board of Directors, Committees and representing the Chamber abroad in various Shipping associations, interact with us during our business and social functions and help us give back to Cyprus society through the Chamber's charity activities.

We assure you that in this New Year, our Chamber will continue, as always, to passionately serve its Members and will remain vigilant to face any challenges ahead towards the personal and business prosperity of our Members. Let us "Navigate" once again Cyprus Shipping towards a successful year, "Sea" fruitful outcomes and progress in our endeavors, and make 2024 a "Cyprus Shipping" Year to Remember. Wishing you a Blessed New Year!

Yours faithfully,  
Thomas A. Kazakos

# 01| CSC MATTERS

## MR. PHILIPPOS PHILIS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TERM OF OFFICE AS PRESIDENT OF ECSA



The Chamber's President and Director General, Messrs. Themis Papadopoulos and Thomas Kazakos, participated as part of the Cyprus delegation, at the Annual General Assembly and Board of Directors Meeting of the European Shipowners' Community Associations (ECSA), which took place in Brussels, on 14 December 2023, under the presidency of the Cypriot shipowner, Mr. Philippos Philis, discussing current issues that concern European Shipping.

Among the main topics discussed during the Board of Directors meeting were the Associations' Policy Priorities for 2024-2029, to address the challenges and maintain the competitiveness of European Shipping in relation to international competition and in view of the upcoming elections to the European Parliament and the appointment of the new European Commission in 2024.

During the Meeting, Mr. Philis was honored for the end of his term as President of ECSA, for the last two years, for his significant contribution, personal involvement, dedication and exemplary leadership to the achievement of important goals, enhancing the progress and further development of European Shipping.

Furthermore, the Director General of the Chamber, Mr. Thomas Kazakos, was unanimously re-appointed for the fourth time in a row, as Chairman of the ECSA State Aid Committee, thus continuing the active participation of Cyprus and the Chamber in the formulation of the European Shipping Taxation Policy, through the work of the Committee.

# 01 | CSC MATTERS

## CSC HOSTS THE USCG "AMVER AWARDS" CEREMONY



The Chamber, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Nicosia and the Cyprus Marine Environment Protection Association (CYMEPA), co-organized a ceremony in Limassol on 30 November to recognize shipping companies participating in the U.S. Coast Guard's AMVER program. The Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue program helps guide merchant shipping vessels to assist vessels in distress on the high seas.

AMVER is open to vessels of all flags and nations. Companies participating in this program voluntarily make their ships available as rescue assets in the event of an emergency. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan, indicating their port of departure, port of destination, course and speed to the AMVER computer center. In an emergency, AMVER is able to project the position of participating ships sailing in the vicinity of a mariner, vessel, or aircraft in distress. This service is provided at no cost to participants or those rescued.

Since its inception in 1958, AMVER has provided search and rescue services around the world. In 2022, there were 212 AMVER activations of AMVER searches and rescues, resulting in the participation of hundreds of ships, and 376 lives saved. The AMVER system saw the number of ships available for search and rescue exceed 6,700 each day.

U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Julie Fisher presented the awards on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard, recognizing participating mariners and their companies. Ambassador Fisher hailed AMVER as an excellent example of mutual assistance and partnership.

# 01 | CSC MATTERS

## 30 YEARS BLOOD DONATIONS BY THE CYPRUS SHIPPING CHAMBER



The Chamber together with the voluntary participation of personnel the employees of its Shipping Member-companies, sent once again messages of hope through its Annual Blood Donation Drive held on 6 December at Agios Georgios Havouzas Hall, in Limassol, in memory of its former Secretariat member, Ben Casey, who passed away in December 2021.

The response was touching, collecting more than 40 blood units and marking a total contribution exceeding 3379 blood units as a result of numerous other blood donations organised by the Shipping Chamber in the past thirty years. In view of the Saint Nicholas Day, the patron Saint of Seafarers, the Chamber dedicated this year's blood donation to them, with the wish to protect them at sea so that they can deliver to us safety and prosperity.

The Chamber's Blood Donation Drives, serve as an opportunity for the Shipping community to come together and demonstrate its solidarity in action every six months, a sentiment deeply appreciated by the Shipping Chamber, extending warm thanks to the volunteers from its Members for their valuable contribution. The Shipping Chamber remains committed to continue its philanthropic activity thus contributing in substance to the well-being and health of the Cyprus society.

# 01 | CSC MATTERS

## CSC HOSTS WITH SUCCESS ITS ANNUAL MEMBERS’ CHRISTMAS GATHERING



The Chamber hosted with pleasure its annual Members’ Christmas Gathering on 11 December at the NOA Restaurant, in Limassol.

The gathering was a great opportunity for Members to meet and network in a relaxed atmosphere with no presentations, ahead of the Festive Season.

This event was exclusive to CSC Members and was kindly sponsored by the Chamber’s Board of Directors Members, to whom we extend our appreciation.

## SAVE THE DATES - CSC BUSINESS & SOCIAL FUNCTIONS



The Chamber will be organising various business and social functions in view of its 35 Years Anniversary in 2024. Further details of these events will be provided in due course via the Chamber’s Circulars.

In the meantime, kindly save the date for the next CSC Members’ Meeting, during which the Chamber shall announce more information on the 2024 schedule of events and activities.

CSC Members’ Meeting	22 January 2024	Four Seasons Hotel
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## 02 | INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

### LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS | NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

The Chamber's Secretariat and Representatives from its Member-Companies participated in the following meetings during November and December 2023, both at local and international level, in order to be able to offer as much assistance as possible to its Members in terms of information and updates related to important shipping matters. Members interested to receive more information on the matters discussed at these meetings, should contact the Secretariat.

- 1.ECSA Communications Working Group, 9/11
- 2.ICS Members RightShip meeting, 14/11
- 3.WISTA Cyprus 11th AGM, 16/11
- 4.ICS STCW Working Group, 21/11
- 5.ICS Crewing and Training Sub-Committee, 22/11
- 6.Energy Efficiency Working Group, 28/11
- 7.KEBE, Eastern Mediterranean Energy Conference & Exhibition, 29/11
- 8.CMMI Regional Forum for Blue Skills, 1/12
- 9.KEBE 96TH Annual General Meeting, 4/12
- 10.Environment Dpt. (MoA), Seminar "Inclusion of Shipping sector in the ETS", 5/12
- 11.ECSA Ship Finance Working Group, 5/12
- 12.ICS, Marine Committee, Energy Efficiency Panel, 5/12
- 13.CYMEPA Workshop CSRD: EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, 5/12
- 14.Limassol Innovation Centre Board, Limassol Innovation Centre, 8/12
- 15.Anti Corruption Authority Forum, 8/12
- 16.ICS Maritime Law Committee, 8/12
- 17.ECSA EU ETS Task Force, 8/12
- 18.ECSA Social Affairs Committee, 12/12
- 19.ECSA Sectoral Social Dialogue, 15/12
- 20.CY-FOS Education and Training Committee, 18/12
- 21.ANAD Green Professions and Skills, 20/12



## 02 | INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

### CSC AT THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING FLAGSHIP SHIPPING SUMMIT HELD DURING COP28



The Cyprus Shipping Chamber, participated at the flagship maritime event organised by the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) in partnership with the Emirates Shipping Association, “Shaping the Future of Shipping: Delivering a Net Zero World Summit”, held in Dubai. The Summit was part of the COP28 Presidency programme and hosted under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure.

The Summit brought together over 300 maritime and energy professionals across the world and policymakers, providing a unique platform to delve into discussions on identifying and accelerating solutions to the decarbonisation challenge and providing recommendations to the COP28 Presidency and shipping policymakers.



The Chamber’s Board Member, Mrs. Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou and its Deputy Director General, Mr. Alexandros Josephides, represented the Cyprus Shipping Industry, further to an official invitation by the ICS, in which the Chamber has been a Member for 30 years. Cyprus was also represented at a state level, by the Shipping Deputy Minister, Mrs. Marina Hadjimanolis, who was invited on the Chamber’s initiative at a ministerial dialogue, held by ICS.

The Chamber remains dedicated to staying at the forefront of industry developments and actively contributing to the ongoing dialogue on shaping a net-zero world while ensuring the sustainability and further development of the Shipping Industry.

## 03 | COMMITTEES

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE, 8/11

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The Committee noted an update on the "Adopt a Ship" Programme. For the current academic year, 103 school classes are participating in the Programme which brings the total number of participating school classes to 1089 since the beginning of the Programme in 2006.

The Committee noted that the proposal for organising an event to celebrate the 1000 classes milestone has been endorsed by the Board of Directors and continued its work on the planning of the event.

### MARINE INSURANCE COMMITTEE, 14/11

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The Committee met on 14 November and reviewed the Agenda of the ICS Insurance Committee which was held on 24 November 2023, in London. The Chairperson of the Chamber's Marine Insurance Committee, Ms. Anna Vourgos, participated virtually at the ICS Insurance Committee meeting.

Other items on the agenda included the impact that the current situation in Ukraine-Russia and Israel-Gaza crises have had on Shipping and Marine Insurance, sanctions and the impact on marine insurance from the use of ammonia as an alternative fuel.

### CREWING AND TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING, 15/11

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The Committee reviewed the agenda notes of the ICS Crewing & Training Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 November 2023 and the ICS STCW Working Group meeting held on 21 November 2023. The Committee noted the outcome of the IMO Correspondence Group on the Comprehensive Review of the 1978 STCW Convention and Code and also noted and discussed a number of submissions to the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 10) to be held between 5-9 February 2024.

The Committee also reminded of the two suicide prevention courses that are delivered by The Mission To Seafarers (MTS), the SafeTALK - Suicide Alertness for Everyone and the ASIST - Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training. An MTS officer delivered a short presentation about SafeTALK and Members agreed to investigate the possibility of cooperating with MTS on delivering the course to Chamber's members in Cyprus within 2024.

### HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING, 23/11

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The Committee received an update on the key outcome of the IMO MEPC80 on the Short-Term Measures, the latest developments on EU ETS and FuelEU Maritime and the IMO Study on ISM effectiveness & implementation.

The new IMO guidance and requirements on mooring and the safe transportation of electric vehicles have been also discussed by the Committee.

### DIGITALISATION COMMITTEE MEETING, 30/11

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The Committee noted the developments on the SpaceX - Starlink project and discussed whether this could be considered a reliable internet service in shipping.

Other items on the Agenda included cyber security and the regulatory developments of the NIS2 Directive.

### OFFSHORE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE MEETING, 11/12

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The Committee discussed several ideas about the future work and activities of the Committee, prepared the Chamber's positions for the meeting with the Minister of Energy, Commerce and Industry, Mr. George Papanastasiou on Monday, 11 December 2023, and noted the outcome of discussions

at the last Parliamentary Committee of Energy meeting that was held on 28 November 2023 to discuss the problems and possible solutions to the problem of developing supporting infrastructure for the offshore industry including an industrial port at Vassilikos.

## 04 | REPORTING

### CYPRUS CANDIDATE MRS DESPINA PANAYIOTOU THEODOSIOU RECEIVES THE IMO GENDER EQUALITY AWARD



The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) during the 130th Session of its Council, on 23 November 2023, selected Mrs. Despina Panayiotou Theodosiou, Board Member of the Shipping Chamber and Chief Executive Officer of Tototheo Maritime Ltd, for the “IMO Gender Equality Award”. The selection of the Cyprus candidate for this award is of particular importance, as it is awarded for the first time by the Organisation.

The Chamber congratulated Mrs. Theodosiou for her well-deserved recognition, which honors not only her but also for the entire Cyprus Shipping Industry, adding yet another recognition and further promotes the image of Cyprus at a global level.

### CSC MEETS WITH MINISTERS OF TOURISM AND ENERGY, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



Chamber representatives from the CSC Ports, Passenger Ship and Cruise Tourism Committee, met on 11 December, with the Deputy Minister of Tourism Permanent Secretary, Mr. Costas Constantinou, to initiate an exercise for the promotion of Cruise Tourism in Cyprus within the framework of the whole Cyprus Tourism Strategy.

Later on same day, the Chamber's Offshore Activities Committee met with the Minister of Energy, Mr. George Papanastasiou, to discuss developments regarding the Offshore Oil and Gas Sector and opportunities for offshore green energy in projects like ocean and offshore wind energy.

## 04 | REPORTING

### CSC AT THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES OF ENERGY AND HEALTH

The Chamber's Legal Affairs Manager attended a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of Health on 16 November 2023, during which, a proposed amending Bill to provide for the retrospective effect of the exemption of seafarers, non-permanent residents of Cyprus, from the obligation to contribute to the Cyprus General Healthcare System (GHS), was presented. The proposed amendment was deemed necessary in order to remove the unfair obligation to contribute in the interim period, namely, from the date of implementation of the national Health System until the date of enforcement of the exemption. The Chamber supported the proposed Bill which safeguards the interests of the seafarers, as well as, their maritime employers.

Later in November, the Chamber's Marine Officer attended a meeting of the Parliamentary Committee of Energy on 28 November 2023, which was set to discuss the obstacles that exist in relation to the development of supporting infrastructure for the purposes of natural gas extraction in the Eastern Mediterranean region and the creation of an industrial port at Vassilikos.

The Marine Officer suggested on behalf of the Chamber, a number of measures and actions that could be taken in order to incentivise this kind of investment and create the framework that will attract more companies to set up offices in Cyprus.

### EMPOWERING MARITIME CAREERS AT THE CCES CAREER FAIR



The Chamber's Marine Officer, Mr, Chrysostomos Efthymiou and Member of the CSC Educational Activities Committee, Mr. Michael Ierides, attended on 11 December, the two day Career Fair organised by the Career Counselling and Educational Services (CCES) of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Youth.



During the Fair, they continued the Chambers ongoing work in promoting marine and maritime education and careers by giving valuable advise and encouragement to youngsters interested to follow this path.

## 04 | REPORTING

### CSC JOINS ITS VOICE WITH GLOBAL SHIPPING COMMUNITY AGAINST RED SEA ATTACKS ON MERCHANT SHIPS AND SEAFARERS

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CSC joined, through a press release on 7 December, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), in calling for an immediate end to attacks on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden that victimise innocent seafarers and urged States with influence in the region should ensure the safe passage of ships and their crew.

Later in December, the Chamber welcomed the launch of Operation Prosperity Guardian by

various countries, which is an important step forward, further to the calls by the global shipping community, to safeguard the uninterrupted operation of global trade and protect innocent seafarers who are exposed to Houthi aggressions in the Southern Red Sea.

This concerted effort underscores a shared commitment to safeguarding the lives of seafarers and securing maritime routes critical for global trade.

### CYPRUS SUCCESSFULLY RE-ELECTED AT THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION COUNCIL

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The Chamber welcomed the successful re-election of Cyprus, as a Member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council for a further two years, during its General Assembly on Friday, 1 December 2023, in London.

Cyprus has been a Member of the IMO since 1978 and a member of its Council since 1987 and its re-election ever since is a significant achievement reflecting the international maritime community's continued trust in Cyprus' as a world's leading maritime nation.

At the same time, the re-election of Cyprus to the IMO, which is the responsible body for determining the global shipping policy and legislation, is very important as in this way, Cyprus will continue to be able to contribute actively in the drafting of International Shipping policy, to address common challenges and ensure a harmonised approach to maritime regulations, whilst safeguarding the interests of Cyprus Shipping globally.



# 05 | MARITIME EDUCATION

## THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED SHIPBROKERS - PROFESSIONAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS (PQE)



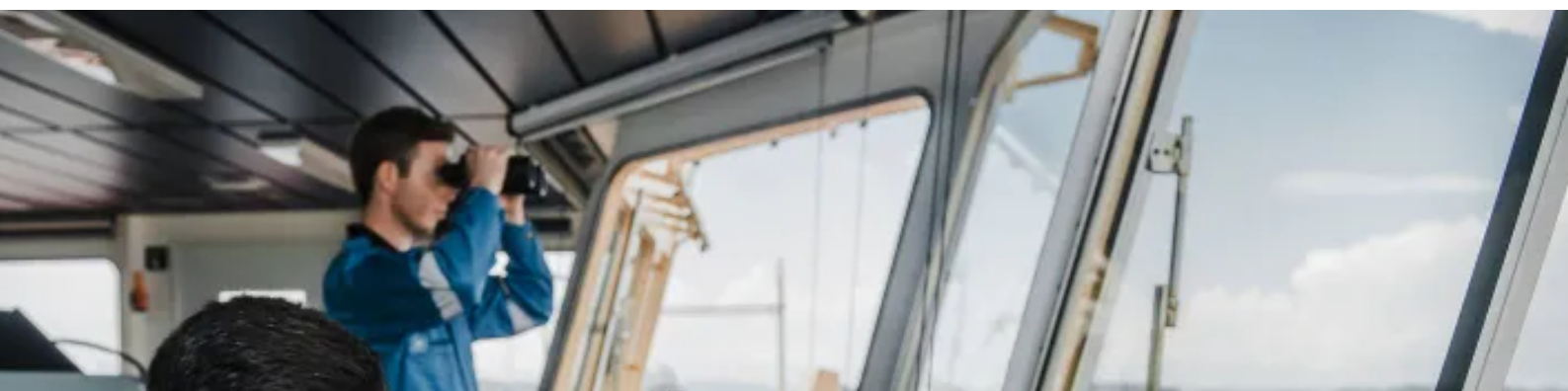
The Member-company employees who are considering sitting the examinations and who may require any advice are urged to make first contact with the Chamber's Marine Officer, Mr. Chrysostomos Efthymiou at the Chamber's Secretariat (Tel: 25 360717) or email [c.efthymiou@csc-cy.org](mailto:c.efthymiou@csc-cy.org).

Further information on these matters may be obtained from the Education Officer of the Cyprus Branch, Costas Silitziotis, on 99 464012 or Stella Mavrommatis, Assistant Education Officer, at: [icscy.education@gmail.com](mailto:icscy.education@gmail.com).

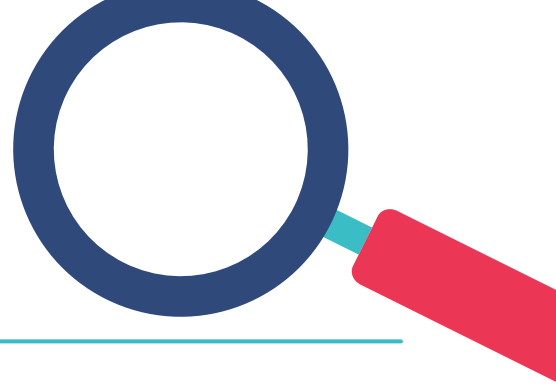
The Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE) are the entry level requirement for membership with the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. The mission of the Institute is promoting professionalism in the shipping industry worldwide. Once you pass the examinations you are eligible to apply for membership.

The examinations take place in Limassol each year in May and November as arranged by the Cyprus Branch of the Institute.

Opening of Academic Year	12 June 2023
May 2023 Exam Results Published	24 August 2023
Deadline for Post Examination Review for May 2023 Exams	7 September 2023
Deadline for Back to School Discount	25 September 2023
Final Deadline for November 2023 Exam Registration	19 October 2023
Deadline for Deferment, Exam Centre or Subject Changes for November 2023 Exams	26 October 2023
November 2023 Exam Session	20-30 November 2023
Deadline to Request Exceptional Exam Centres for May 2024 Exams	9 February 2024
November 2023 Exam Results Published	22 February 2024
Deadline for Post Examination Review for November 2023 Exams	7 March 2024
Final Deadline for May 2024 Exam Registration	11 April 2024
Deadline for Deferment, Exam Centre or Subject Changes for May 2024 Exams	18 April 2024
May 2024 Examination Session	13 - 23 May 2024
May 2024 Examination Results Published	22 August 2024



## 06| EMPLOYMENT



### CANDIDATES

#### Mr. Andreas Kontozis

25, Cypriot. BSc in Maritime Studies graduate looking for job opportunities in the shipping sector. Languages: Fluent in Greek and English.

#### Mr. Antonios Daldavanis

39, Greek. Previous experience as Deck Cadet /Apprentice Officer on board Crude Oil Tankers for 12 months/ and /2nd Officer on board 5 Months in Crude Oil Carrier Tankers, 6 years in Bulk Carriers (Capesize),as 2nd Officer and Chief Officer on board in bulk carrier (Capesize). 3 years as 2nd and Chief Officer on board in Container Vessel. 1 year(12 months) as Master on board in container vessel. Languages: Fluent in Greek and English.

#### Ms. Maria Kontari

36, Greek. BA in International Shipping and Transport Logistics and LLB Laws. Previous experience as Full-service HR-Crewing. Languages: Greek and English.

#### Mr. Michel Nafach

34, Cypriot. Merchant Marine Academy graduate with seagoing experience. Currently seeking for new challenges, making a turn to an ashore career( such as Tug Master / Harbor Pilot, superintendent. Languages: Greek and English.

Contact us at [csc@csc-cy.org](mailto:csc@csc-cy.org) to receive any of the above CVs.

