

THE VOICE

Monthly Newsletter
February/March 2024

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01 | CSC MATTERS

CYPRUS SHIPPING CHAMBER HOLDS WORKSHOP ON EU EMISSIONS TRADING SYSTEM

The Cyprus Shipping Chamber on Tuesday 12 March 2024, organized a Workshop addressed to its Member companies regarding the regulatory framework governing the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS), which entered into force on 1 January 2024, and examined the obligations it imposes on the Shipping companies.



The Workshop commenced with a presentation from the EU ETS Administering Authority in Cyprus, which is the Department of Environment at the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, on the regulatory compliance and a Q&A session. This was followed by group meetings between participants and service providers, Members of the Chamber, who presented relevant solutions to the challenges arising out of the implementation of the EU ETS.



The workshop was informative and well-attended, bringing together representatives from seven service providers and more than one hundred individuals from the Chamber's Member companies.

01 | CSC MATTERS

CSC CHARITY/RELAY MARATHON IN SEPTEMBER TO COMMEMORATE 35 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



As 2024 marks 35 years since the Chamber's establishment, it has been decided to commemorate the special occasion by organising a "CSC Charity Marathon" on Sunday, 29 September 2024, a day after the IMO "World Maritime Day".

Participation in the event will be exclusive to the employees of the Chamber's Member-Companies and their immediate family members. The Marathon will be comprised by two separate Runs, one spanning 35km and one spanning 3.5km

The event will be charitable in its nature, and given that running is all about mobility, it has been decided that the event will aim at raising awareness and money for adolescents with mobility impairments.

In this respect, invitations were extended with our Circular No.21/2024 dated 19 March 2024 to interested Member-companies whose runners will be willing to wheel a number of adolescents with mobility impairments for the duration of the 35km Run, in the format of a "Relay Run" amongst themselves in an effort to offer them the joy of participation.



01 | CSC MATTERS

CSC CHARITY/RELAY MARATHON IN SEPTEMBER TO COMMEMORATE 35 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

Similarly, Member-Companies have been invited to express their readiness to come forward with donations to be offered to a Cyprus charity organisation supporting adolescents with mobility impairments. A radio live link will be covering the event in order to generate as much awareness as possible. Social and traditional media activities will also take place.

Moreover, it should be noted that the success of this particular event will heavily depend on the tangible support of Volunteers from our Member-Companies in terms of providing assistance in organisation and execution.



As this is the first time that we aim at organising such an ambitious event for such a worthy cause, we sincerely hope that all our members will actively support this Chamber initiative by participating with runners for the two runs and with volunteers as support.

01 | CSC MATTERS

CYPRUS SHIPPING DISCUSSED IN BRUSSELS THE ATTACKS AGAINST COMMERCIAL SHIPS IN THE RED SEA



The European Community' Shipowners Associations (ECSA) which includes the national shipowners associations of the European Union held its regular Board of Directors meeting on 7 May 2024, in Brussels.

Attending the meeting on behalf of the Cyprus Shipping Industry were Messrs. Philippos Philis, Nicolas Hadjioannou and Thomas Kazakos.

Items in the meeting's discussions included the implementation of measures to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and priority access to low- and zero-emissions fuels for Shipping, maritime safety, taxation ship finance, seafarer's wages, economic security, and the attacks against commercial ships in the red Sea.

In view of the recent tragic loss of seafarers lives aboard the commercial ship "True Confidence" in the Red Sea as a result of a missile strike, the urgent and imperative need for States to provide adequate protection to Shipping and to defenceless seafarers was re-emphasized.

02 | LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Chamber's Secretariat and Representatives from its Member-Companies participated in the following meetings during February and March 2024, 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.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

1. ICS Maritime Law Committee 05/02
2. ICS Shipping Policy Committee 05/02
3. ECSA Ship Finance Working Group - 06/02
4. ICS BoD - 06/02
5. ECSA Safety and Environment Committee, Berlin - 16/02
6. ECSA Communications Working Group - 16/02
7. ESCA Taxation Working Group - 20/02
8. ECSA State Aid Committee - 20/02
9. ECSA Shipping Policy Committee - 21/02
10. ECSA Maritime Security Working Group - 21/02
11. ECSA Ship Finance Roundtable - 22/02
12. EMSA 69th Administrative Board - 06/03
13. ECSA BoD - 07/03
14. ECSA Communications Working Group - 14/03
15. ECSA Ad-Hoc Taxation WG - 14/03
16. Crewing and Training Committee - 19/03
17. ICS Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Working Group - 26/03

LOCAL REPRESENTATION

1. Seafarers Registry, Transport Parliamentary Committee 08/02
2. CSC Commercial Operations and Trade Facilitation Committee - 14/02
3. CSC Ports, Passenger ships and Cruise Tourism Committee - 15/02
4. Multimarine BlueBarge project Presentation - 13/02
5. EOKE Round table Discussion 11/03
6. 1st CSN Cyprus Maritime Supply Chain and Vessel Performance forum - 20/03
7. CYFOS General Assembly - 21/03
8. Maritime Sanctions Roundtable, James Martin Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies/ US Department of State 27/03
9. ITIC/UK Defence EU ETS Panel debate - Ship managers are you ready? - 27/03

02 | LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

CSC - IN LONDON FOR ICS BOD MEETING



The International Chamber of Shipping held a Board of Directors meeting on 6 February 2024 at its London Offices. In attendance was the President of the Cyprus Shipping Chamber, Mr. Themis Papadopoulos, also under his capacity as ICS' Vice-President, and CSC' Director General, Mr. Thomas A. Kazakos, representing the Cyprus Shipping Industry.

The meeting focused on current shipping policy issues and challenges such as IMO's negotiations on Green House Gas reduction measures and the Red Sea attacks. The Manila Seafarer 2050 summit and the potential of organizing a Maritime Shipping Policy Forum was also discussed.

In addition, joining the meeting was the International Transport Worker's Federation (ITF) General Secretary, Mr. Stephen Cotton, who discussed the industry's priorities and how ICS and ITF can further co-operate.

03 | COMMITTEES

ICS MARITIME LAW COMMITTEE 05/02

Discussions revolved around National Minimum Wage Laws and UNCLOS issues arising out of the use of EGCS.

Liberia reported that the UK had responded to their Letter of Protest but with no substance. The Committee considered next steps, and was agreed by all that the ICS exercise to convince other States to join Liberia should continue.

The UK Chamber of Shipping reported that the UK Seafarers Wages Act has yet to be enforced while consultation regarding secondary legislation to be enacted, is being delayed due to port authorities resistance. There is however, a mounting pressure by the Trade Unions to transform the Seafarer's Charter into a mandatory instrument and that was noted with concern.

France' ambition to expand its law's scope of application -currently only applicable in the Channel- to other EU countries was highlighted with concern. EU level discussions were noted as key for this matter.

Reference was made to the recent ETF's manifesto and concern was expressed over its approach pertaining to the claims of jurisdiction and the need to revise the EU State Aid Guidelines. They further stated that there was a need to pressure the EU via the Maritime Directors to block the ETF's intentions. The Shipping Chamber supported said position.

Regarding UNCLOS, issues arising from the use of EGCS, reference was made to the IMO Legal Affairs Office advice to MEPC 81 on the use of EGCS as an alternative compliance mechanism under MARPOL Annex VI and the relationship with UNCLOS and the comments submitted by Japan for consideration at the Sub-Committee for Prevention Pollution and Response PPR 11.

ICS and all national associations, including the Shipping Chamber, supported the Japanese submission, as part of an effort to prevent States to unilaterally regulate areas in their EEZs (under IMO Convention) without prior consultation and approval of the relevant international body (IMO)

ICS SHIPPING POLICY COMMITTEE 05/02

The Committee assessed the current status of the National Seafarers Wages Laws with similar discussions taking place as in the Maritime Law Committee. ICS provided an update on their ESG Initiative for which the Shipping Chamber already has expressed support for, provided that the voluntary nature of the ESG disclosure will be ensured and that it will neither endorse nor oppose any specific reporting frameworks or ESG standards.

On the OECD Digital Tax Initiative and particularly regarding Pillar II, Hong Kong reported various issues it faced in relation to the practical application of the "commercial and strategic management" requirement.

Regarding the Poseidon Principles and the Sea Cargo Charter, it was reported that the Sea Cargo Secretariat had embarked on a campaign to register more owners under the initiative. This was seen as an effort to cover the bad results of the Bank's signatories to the Poseidon Principles and to camouflage any indications of greenwashing that placed their portfolio's at risk.

03 | COMMITTEES

SEAFARERS REGISTRY, TRANSPORT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE 08/02

The Chamber's Marine Officer attended the Transport Parliamentary Committee meeting on 8 February 2024 during which the amending of the bill for the "Merchant Shipping (Registration of Seafarer's and Seafarers Register) Law of 2023 was tabled for discussion. The Chamber, in coordination with the SDM, recommended for the allowance of 72 hours -instead of 24- for the company to provide the required seafarers documentation for their registration within the registry.

This proposal along with a few other minor proposed amendments were approved. The intention is for the amending bill to be submitted to the Plenary for approval within the coming weeks.

COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS AND TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE 14/02

The committee met in order to exchange first views and share experiences in view of the enforcement of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) on 1 January 2024. The Chamber's Secretariat was mostly interested to know of any general queries or practical issues facing shipping companies, especially following the publication of the EU ETS implementation act by the European Commission issued on 31 January 2024, including a list allocating shipping companies to Administering Authorities.

Queries focused on the regulatory aspect rather than the on commercial, with the latter being a matter to be addressed during the practical implementation stage of the EU ETS, and on issues relating to assumption of responsibility, timelines, bareboat charter, mandating and approach to other Administering Authorities. The Chamber's Secretariat undertook to obtain clarifications from the European Commission/EMSA via ECSA.

CREWING AND TRAINING COMMITTEE 19/03

The Committee reviewed the agenda notes of the ICS Crewing and Training Sub-Committee meeting to be held on 27 March 2024 and the ICS STCW Working Group meeting to be held on 26 March 2024. The Committee noted the outcome of the IMO Sub-Committee on Human Element, Training and Watchkeeping (HTW 10) which was held between 5-9 February 2024 with the report of the Working Group on the comprehensive review of the STCW Convention and Code being the most important topic of discussion.

The committee also reminded of the Mission to Seafarers (MTS) Suicide Awareness course called SafeTALK and agreed to consider the possibility of cooperating with the MTS on the organisation of a course in Cyprus within 2024 for the Chamber's Members. The Secretariat undertook to investigate interest from Members and arrange the course if sufficient placements are secured.

04 | REPORTING

CSC WELCOMES EU COMMISSIONS ASSURANCE TO GIVE SHIPPING PRIORITY ACCESS TO OW- AND ZERO- EMISSION FUELS

On February 2024, the European Commission in the context of presenting its assessment for EU's 2040 climate target committed to address barriers to the deployment of alternative low- and zero-emissions fuels (including e-fuels and advanced biofuels) and extend to the maritime sector priority access to them, over sectors that have access to other decarbonisation solutions

In its assessment, the Commission recommended reducing the EU's net greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2040, relative to 1990. The 2040 climate target will reaffirm EU's determination to tackle climate change.

The Chamber, welcoming the Commission's assurance expressed its belief that prioritising the maritime sector's access to these fuels not only accelerates the pace of decarbonisation in Shipping but also ensures the industry's competitiveness and sustainability in the long-term.

By fostering an environment conducive to innovation and investment in green technologies, the Commission paves the way for a greener, more resilient maritime sector and a sustainable future for Europe in general.

Additionally, the Chamber with satisfaction, noted the Commissions supportive consideration to the IMO Strategy on the reduction of GHG emissions in shaping differentiated targets for Shipping, as well as the need for significant investments required in the existing fossil fuels based energy production models with renewable and low-carbon fuels necessitated by the shipping sector.



04 | REPORTING

CHAMBER UNITES VOICE CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF GALAXY LEADER'S CREW

19 February 2024, marked three months since the Houthis seized vehicles carrier Galaxy Leader and its 25-member crew in the Red Sea. The Cyprus Shipping Chamber, in concert with 26 other members of the Maritime Industry from around the world, co-signing a joint statement, united their voice to express concern for the captive seafarer's lives and called on the Houthis for their immediate release. The statement stressed that the 25 captive seafarers are innocent victims of the ongoing aggression against world shipping and their plight is a major concern as the merchant shipping community continues to come under attack. The statement further stressed that international organisations and States must make all efforts to secure their release.



CHAMBER STRONGLY WELCOMES EU'S OPERATION ASPIDES



On the same day the EU launched its defensive maritime security operation in the Red Sea, dubbed operation "ASPIDES". The operation retains a defensive mandate aimed at restoring and preserving freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf. In that context, it will ensure maritime situational awareness accompany merchant vessels and protect them from cross-sectoral attacks at sea. The Chamber strongly welcomed the launch of the operation stressing that European presence in the area addressing security concerns and keeping seafarers safe is essential while at the same time supports all coordinated efforts -including diplomatic action aimed at de-escalating the crisis.

04 | REPORTING

THE CYPRUS SHIPPING CHAMBER CONDEMNS DEADLY ATTACK AGAINST COMMERCIAL SHIP “TRUE CONFIDENCE”

The Cyprus Shipping Chamber strongly condemned the missile attack against commercial ship, “True Confidence”, that claimed the lives of three of its crew members, while injuring at least four others on Wednesday, 6 March 2024, in the Red Sea.

The Chamber extended its sincere condolences to the families of the seafarers who died, as well as wishes that those who went missing are found and hopes for the speedy recovery of those injured, some in a critical condition.

The loss of innocent and defenceless seafarer’s lives in the context of the ongoing attacks against commercial ships in the Red Sea, is a highly unacceptable and dangerous development making it imperative, that States and the international lawful community, urgently take all necessary measures in securing commercial ships and their personnel navigating the specific area.



05 | MARITIME EDUCATION

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



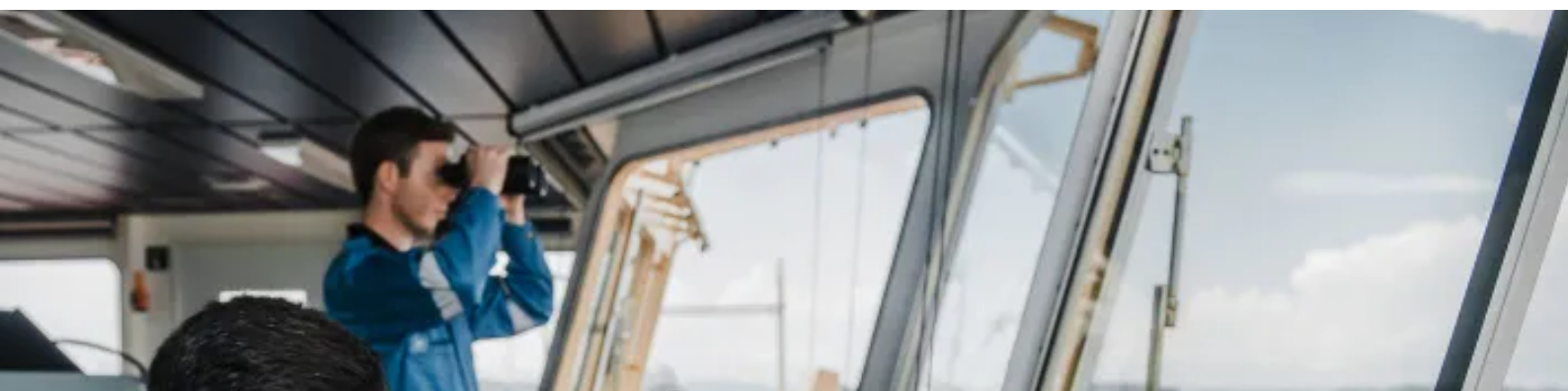
The Member-company employees who are considering sitting the examinations and who may require any advice are urged to make first contact with the Chamber's Marine Officer, Mr. Chrysostomos Efthymiou, at the Chamber's Secretariat (Tel: 25 360717) or email c.efthymiou@csc-cy.org.

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

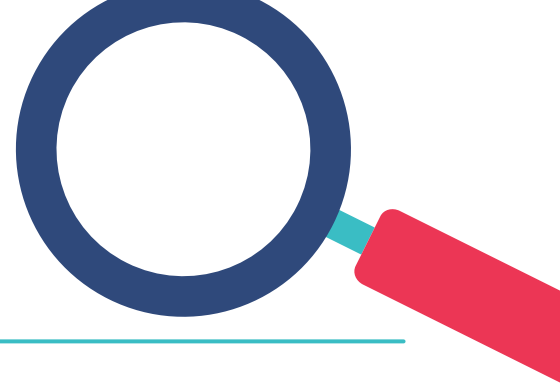
The Professional Qualifying Examinations (PQE) are the entry level requirement for membership with the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. The mission of the Institute is promoting professionalism in the shipping industry worldwide. Once you pass the examinations you are eligible to apply for membership.

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. Nikolas Thrasyvoulou

27, Cypriot. Holder of a BSc in Accounting and Finance and of an MSc in Shipping Management, currently a Marine Accounting Manager and ACCA student.

Mr Panayiotis Amiras

47. Greek. Maritime professional. Currently an Independent Chartering Shipbroker. Holds a DipHE in Maritime Business with Maritime Law.

Mr. Andreas Evripidou

39, Cypriot. Holder of a Diploma in MIS from Intercollege. Professional experience in IT

Mr. Marios Kyriacou

27, Cypriot. Holds a BSc in Mathematics and Statistics and an MSc in Artificial Intelligence. Currently occupied as an AI/ML Engineer at a software company, and freelance Mathematics tutor.

Ms. Pantelitsa Christou

24, Cypriot. Holder of a Bachelor in Chemical Engineering

Ms. Marina Saparilla

18, Cypriot. Currently a Business Administration student and The Cyprus University of Technology. Restaurant worker.

Contact us at csc@csc-cy.org to receive any of the above CVs.

