

Shortsea Promotion Cooperation Agreement

Having regard to the increasing road congestion in Europe.

Having regard to the already good and still improving environmental performances of the shortsea shipping sector.

Having regard that shortsea shipping carries 40% of goods traffics within the Community.

Having regard to the third main objectives of the Marco Polo program concerning innovation in cooperation and dissemination of best practice in the shortsea shipping sector.

Having regard to the implementation of the Directive on reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of EU countries.

Having regard to the publication, by the Commission, of a guide to customs procedures for short sea shipping.

Whereas the *“European Commission’s main 2012 focus area in the field of maritime transport are the further development and implementation of actions to promote and facilitate Short Sea Shipping and Clean Shipping¹...”*

Whereas the *“European Commission strongly supports the Shortsea Promotion Centres in their activities and encourages them to proceed with their valuable work, their networking and their exchange of good practices and expertise²...”*

Whereas the European White Paper on Transport of 2001 stressing the need to for optimizing the performance of multimodal logistic chains.

Whereas the European White Paper on Transport of 2011 asking for *“the abolition of barriers to shortsea shipping”*.

Whereas the need to maintain the efficient operation and guidance of Shortsea Promotion Centres³.

¹ ESN Annual Booklet 2012 – foreword by Magda Kopczynska

² ESN Annual Booklet 2012 – foreword by Magda Kopczynska

³ Communication from the Commission: Programme for the Promotion of Short Sea Shipping [COM(2003) 155 final]

Strengthened by this paradigm, by an undeniable necessity, and motivated by new insights and ambitions, European Shortsea Network has to be reinforced.

The undersigned are convinced that Europe is a key element to the promotion of shortsea shipping as maritime leg of green multimodal corridors. Indeed, all strategic developments, new routes, motorways of the seas and ship-owners are now European dimensioned.

They decide to work more closely to promote shortsea shipping at European level through the European Shortsea Network.

Cooperation, best practices, synergies and holistic approach must be in the center of this new voluntary and non-binding agreement.

The signatories commit themselves to:

- Promoting the concept and use of shortsea with potential users
- Looking for stimulating the development of shortsea shipping projects in close cooperation with ESN members.
- Participating to high quality promotion activities to develop the objectives and values of this agreement.
- Promoting shortsea shipping as a key element in the supply chain