

The European Community Shipowners Association (in short ECSA) is the trade association representing the European shipping sector. The European shipping industry is a global leader controlling 40 % of the global merchant fleet and is active in all kinds of maritime services within Europe, between Europe and third countries and in so called cross trades between non EU continents.

ECSA was formed in Brussels in 1965 and is recognized by the European Institutions as the representative body of the European shipping sector. ECSA is registered in the Commission's Register for Interest Representatives

Under N° 288846415-01 since 23.06.2008

Whilst ECSA appreciates the key drivers of the thematic approach as brought forward in the "EU 2020" strategy consultation paper we would like to refer to the maritime transport strategy towards 2020 in particular.

In this context ECSA wishes to refer to Commission Communication on strategic goals and recommendations for the EU's maritime transport policy until 2018 (COM(2009) 8 final of 21.01.2009).

ECSA welcomes this Maritime Strategy Paper towards 2018 as a generally sound basis for a European shipping policy. It stresses the key role of European shipping services for global and European trade and for the daily life of its citizens.

The process towards drafting of the Maritime Strategy Paper 2018 started prior to the economic and financial crisis and has not gone into the details of it. However, the principles laid down in the Paper are also valid in periods of crisis.

Since the Maritime Strategy paper covers a wide range of issues some points of the Paper need further clarification to ensure consistency with the recognised basic principles of the international character and the need for keeping the competitiveness and world leadership of the EU shipping industry.

ECSA considers it essential that the principles brought forward in this Maritime Strategy Paper 2018 are taken into account in the wider policy of the Future "EU2020" Strategy. ECSA offers the cooperation of the European shipping industry for the application of these principles in practice.

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