NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: Meeting of the Maritime Directors – Brussels, 5 May 2015
Summary points

1. Directive on reporting Formalities

The Commission presented the state of play regarding the guidelines established by the eMS group for the harmonised implementation of the National Single Window. EMSA mentioned that they will continue technical assistance to Member States.

Maritime directors supported the continuation of a technical working group and mentioned good progress and commitment to achieve the NSW in the near future.

2. IMO matters

The Commission raised the need to reflect on how best we can advance our interests in IMO within the new framework for coordination based on the Lisbon Treaty and Court rulings.

Maritime Directors insisted on the need for pragmatism and flexibility. Several Member States welcomed the suggestion for a biannual meeting specifically to go through IMO matters.

Maritime Directors were invited to provide further suggestions on suggested Commission practice for IMO coordination by end of May.

3. European Sustainable Shipping Forum

Member States supported the prolongation of the ESSF and the 2 new sub-groups for the Monitoring Reporting and Verification system for GHG emissions from shipping, to discuss (i) monitoring methods, and (ii) verification and accreditation.

The Commission reiterated the advisory role of the ESSF which was useful to discuss with Member States and industry together on technical issues but which does not replace institutional fora like regulatory committees or Council WGs.

The Commission also debriefed on the sub-groups on Port Reception Facilities and financing aspects.
4. FR AOB point on UNFCCC COP 21 Paris conference

FR raised the link between preparations for the COP 21 conference and discussions at the IMO on GHG emissions.

The Commission referred to MEPC 68 as a decisive meeting where progress could be made in particular on a global system for emission data collection.

5. Transfer of ships between registers

The Commission presented the report on Regulation (EC) 789/2004 on the transfer of ships between registers within the Community, to be published on 8 May 2015, and clarified that statistics and tables were based on the data submitted by the Member States.

The Member States that have not provided data yet indicated that they would do so in the coming weeks. The annex will be updated in the autumn when corrected/missing data are received.

6. Mid-term review of the Maritime Transport Strategy

The Commission referred to the success of the European Shipping Week and the commitment of Commissioner Bulc to promote maritime transport and the European shipping sector during her term.

Maritime Directors were invited for a meeting after the summer to discuss key issues such as competitiveness and employment as well as international matters.

7. IT AOB point on accident investigation (Norman Atlantic, Sorrento)

Investigations are on-going. IT will hold a meeting with ferries operators to discuss implementation issues such as registration of passengers and load plans.

The Commission referred to the on-going REFIT exercise where any relevant findings can be integrated.