



**MINUTES OF THE 26th CESMA COUNCIL MEETING ON 16TH SEPTEMBER 2021,
RIJEKA, CROATIA**

Those present:

Captain H. Ardillon	President, AFCAN, France
Captain D. Dimitrov	Deputy President, BSMA, Bulgaria
Captain M. Badell Serra	Vice President, ACCMM, Spain
Captain L. Geenevasen	Administrator, NVKK, Netherlands
Captain G. Ribaric	ZPU, Slovenia
Captain Captain W. Martens	VDKS, Germany
Captain B. Kavanagh	IIMM, Ireland
Captain B. Alam	IIMM, Ireland
Captain B. Baert	KBZ, Belgium
Captain H. Ammerlaan	NVKK, Netherlands
Captain J. Karnincic	UKPTM, Croatia
Captain D. Lakos	UKPTM, Croatia
Captain G. Lettich	CNPC, Italy
Captain M. Carobolante	CTPC, Italy
Captain M. Gianelli	USCLAC, Italy

The Council is welcomed by the President of CESMA, Captain Hubert Ardillon.

ITEM 1: OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The President, Captain Hubert Ardillon opened the 26th CESMA Council Meeting in the beautiful former palace and now Maritime Museum of Rijeka. He expressed on behalf of CESMA appreciations for the excellent atmosphere for the meeting to Capt. Juraj Karnincic and wished the participants fruitful meeting. After more than two years again there is possibility the Council members to meet live and to discuss the issues face to face, even if, as we were disciplined, we were able to meet virtually in September 2020.

Of course the main subject of our discussion would be the pandemic, but we could not forget other important subjects such as criminalization of seafarers, fatigue, autonomous ships, sulphur cap, etc. At the end of his words, he reminded that two years ago, at Antwerp, CESMA was already without General Secretary Capt. Fredrick van Wijnen, being at hospital at that time and passed away few days later. In 2019, was also the passing away of Capt. Jean Chennevière, one of the four captains at the origin of CESMA and its statutes. In their memory, he proposed the Members to observe one minute of silence.

ITEM 2: Apologies

Apologies are received from Members not able to come, due to difficulties to travel in connection with pandemic (Spain-AVCCMM, Finland-HSF, Latvia-LKKA, France-Hydros), or being on board ships (Romania-ACNR, Italy-IYM).

ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Each council member presents himself and mentions the shipmasters' association and which country he represents. New faces in the council are capt. Badiul Alam from Ireland who is representing IIMM together with capt. Kavanagh, capt. Damir Lakos new representative from Croatia ZHUPK. Capt. Geenevasen presented his successor as NVKK representative and CESMA Administrator capt. Hans Ammerlaan.

ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as proposed.

ITEM 5: ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 25th COUNCIL MEETING ON LINE VIA GOOGLE MEET.

Captain Dimitrov, CESMA Deputy President and acting Secretary General informed the floor that the minutes of 25th Council Meeting had been distributed and agreed on line shortly after the event and published in CESMA News December 2020. No any remarks had been reported and the minutes had been adopted unanimously.

ITEM 6: ORGANIZATION AND RUNNING OF CESMA BOARD (ACTUAL AND FUTURE)

Captain Ardillon explained the council members the necessity to continue having in the Board of administrator. As there in no person in the Board from Netherlands and the confederation is registered in that country CESMA needs a person to take care of administrative matters as well as to register the changes in the Board administratively and to keep physical contact with the bank CESMA uses. For the time being access to the bank account is available for both the President and the administrator and it ensures continuity of the operations in case of difficulties of one of them. It was agreed the Board to have administrator and for the time being access to the bank to be granted to capt. Hubert Ardillon and capt. Leo Geenevasen who will be succeeded after the meeting by capt. Hans Ammerlaan and the access will be transferred to him. Capt. Geenevasen explained what he has done and capt. Ammerlaan accepted to continue doing the same.

ITEM 7: MAILS, BANK AND INTERNET MANAGEMENT

Capt. Ardillon reported that he cleaned the inbox of CESMA e-mail and now it is fully operational with enough space for new messages. The laptop of the organization is still in order and he managed to reinstall the operational system of it in English with no charge. Now it could be used of anyone coming to the position of Secretary General.

Capt. Dimitrov told the council members the procedure of preparing CESMA News. He urged the member organizations to contribute to the newsletter as it is more valuable when consists of information from members instead of compiling different articles from external publications. He asked whether all members receive the newsletter. The council members present confirmed they received it. Capt. Lakos proposed the newsletter to be distributed electronically only. Capt. Ardillon, capt. Gianelli and capt. Baert expressed their opinion that hard copy is still necessary. Capt. Ardillon said that nowadays all of us receive a lot of mails every day and very often we pass through them without noticing the attachments. Having the hard copy especially the members of EU Parliament, EU Commission and EMSA could at least pass through the pages and find the information we communicate.

Capt. Ardillon informed the council members of the desktop computer available in the office of CESMA in Netherlands. It's completely empty as nobody stays in the office. Capt. Geenevasen said he is going there once a month and now during the pandemic even less often. Capt. Baert and capt. Ammerlaan proposed to keep the desktop in the office as we could not do anything else with it.

ITEM 8: RENDERING OF THE 2019 FINANCIAL PAPERS.

The financial papers were presented by capt. Ardillon. There are only Lithuanian and Montenegro shipmasters associations which did not pay their subscriptions but there is communication with them. He mentioned that actual budget for the year 2020 is less than adopted due to pandemic situation and restrictions to travel and meet. The only physical meeting the Board had made in February 2020 and the Board participated in the European Shipping Week in Brussels where the Board members made useful contacts with EU Parliament members, EU Commission officials, EMSA Executive Director and IMO Secretary General. For the time being CESMA has savings transferred to the savings account. All the expenditures had been explained and adopted. Capt. Ardillon proposed to keep the same budget for the year 2021 and 2022 and the Board will monitor the development of pandemic situation and come back to normal travel and meeting in favour of CESMA members when possible. To conclude the financial papers had been adopted as proposed.

ITEM 9: GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Captain Dimitrov, CESMA Deputy President presented the General Secretary's Report. It explains the activities of CESMA in the year 2020. According to the CESMA Logbook there are mostly on line participations except European Shipping Week already mentioned in the previous agenda item. Capt. Ardillon informed the council members about his interview on French media about difficulties of the seamen in condition of pandemic. Capt. Lakos added to that information actions of ZHUPK and cooperation with Croatian Ministry of Transport to ensure possibility of seafarers to make PCR tests before joining ships and to be vaccinated with single shot vaccine Johnson and Johnson due to time restrictions. Capt. Martens from VDKS informed that in Germany they organized vaccination for their members with priority to be able to join ships easily. There are no remarks on the report and as such it is adopted by the Council.

ITEM 10: ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT, DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL.

Capt. Ardillon proposed Election committee to be elected now and the members of it to be capt. Ammerlaan, capt. Karnincic and capt. Kavanagh. In the Board there are proposals from BSMA capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, at present Deputy President to be elected as President and capt. Ardillon to be elected as Secretary General. There is proposal from Italian members capt. Ribaric to be elected as President but he had been re-elected as President of ZPU (Slovenian Shipmasters Association) a month ago and as per the statutes he could not be proposed for President. Finally there is one nomination for President of CESMA – capt. Dimitar Dimitrov. From ten voting members present ten voted and capt. Dimitrov was elected as President. Capt. Ribaric was proposed from capt. Ardillon as Deputy President. There are no other proposals and during voting from ten present council members ten voted in favour. Capt. Ribaric was elected as CESMA Deputy President. Capt. Dimitrov proposed capt. Ardillon for Secretary General. Ten out of ten present council members voted in favour. Capt. Geenevasen informed the council that capt. Ammerlaan will succeed him as NVKK Council member representative and CESMA Administrator. As in the statutes and bylaws no voting is necessary and capt. Hans Ammerlaan was announced as CESMA Administrator. The present Board of CESMA consists of:

President – Capt. Dimitar Dimitrov, Bulgaria, elected 2021;

General Secretary – Capt. Hubert Ardillon, France, elected 2021;

Deputy President – Capt. Giorgio Ribaric, Slovenia, elected 2021;

Vice President – Capt. Mariano Badell, Spain, elected 2020;

Administrator – Capt. Hans Ammerlaan, Netherlands, as per the statutes and bylaws, 2021.

ITEM 11: MEMBERSHIP

Capt. Ardillon informed that there are no new membership applications. Capt. Dimitrov proposed to continue contacts with Polish shipmasters organizations to persuade them to become members of CESMA. Capt. Martens from VDKS insisted of sticking on EU matters and CESMA has to urge EU institutions on supporting shipping industry to employ EU seafarers via subsidies or other means. Capt. Kavanagh proposed cooperation with EMSA for stricter control of condition of ships sailing in EU waters to ensure safety of navigation.

ITEM 12: STATUTES AND BY-LAWS

No any proposals and discussions.

ITEM 13: ORGANIZATION OF ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLIES. PROPOSAL FOR THE NEXT AGA.

Capt. Gianelli from USCLAC, Italy, proposed next Council meeting and AGA to be held in Genoa, Italy on May 2022. The proposed dates had been discussed and finally it was decided to be 05th and 06th May 2022 subject to further confirmation from the host organization and information to the members in due time till the end of 2021. Genoa, Italy was adopted as the place for the next CESMA Council Meeting and AGA.

ITEM 14: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.

Capt. Ardillon repeated the participation of CESMA in European Shipping Week in Brussels in February 2020 together with capt. Ribaric and capt. Dimitrov. The outcome is meeting and discussion about safety of navigation and the role of shipmasters with European Maritime Pilots Association, European Shipowners Association, European Tug Owners Association, European Sea Ports Organization, IMO representatives. Contacts had been exchanged with the presidents and secretaries of above mentioned organizations. Reconfirmed was the cooperation with Nautical Institute and the members of CESMA are advised to participate in NI webinars.

ITEM 15: ANY OTHER MATERS

Capt. Mario Carobolante raised the problem with employment of cheap labour seamen and captains on board the ships sailing under the flag of Malta and Cyprus and the trend of some EU shipowners to reflag their ships under those flags and replacement of national seafarers with non-EU seafarers. Capt. Lakos and capt. Ribaric mentioned the same experience with Croatian and Slovenian captains. In connection with the increase of attraction of the young Europeans to the maritime profession capt. Kavanagh told the council members their experience with Erasmus program and exchange of students with other EU nations. Capt. Lettich shared the experience of CNPC in signing Memorandum of understanding with Maritime Universities allowing ship captains to assist in training thus the students to get the latest information from the captains working on board ships.

He also raised discussion about the case of grounding of m/v Ever Given and lessons learnt. The ship masters have to know what happened on board to protect themselves in the future. There is continuous increase of the size of ships but the ports and canals remain the same. The other important issue is stack in minimum standards of training as per STCW.

Capt. Lettich raised also the problem of return of dead bodies of seamen died on board the ships because of pandemic. The bodies could not be disembarked several months and that created problems and disappointment to the families of dead seamen. Capt. Dimitrov confirmed the same problem with Romanian shipmaster in China.

Capt. Ardillon informed the council members that the conference in Bilbao “500 years of Magellan sailing” was postponed to the year 2022 and the abstracts should be sent to organizers till November, 05th 2021. He intends to propose a paper on behalf of CESMA about captains’ roles and duties differences between Magellan and actual times.

Capt. Lakos shared his opinion on the existence now of difference of conditions for seafarers when ships are in ports and restrictions of some shipping companies to their crew to go ashore.

ITEM 16: EVALUATION OF RESOLUTIONS FROM 25th AGA ON LINE VIA GOOGLE MEET.

Capt. Dimitrov proposed the resolutions with the amendments made by capt. Ardillon. New resolution nr.6 was proposed about the legal regulation of maritime autonomous surface ships. Capt. Baert mentioned that it is too early to have resolution on that subject as at the moment there are only preliminary researches. Regarding resolution 5 about VTS capt. Lakos pointed out the necessity of unification of the rules for exchange of information in coastal areas so the ship masters to report in the same way. On resolution nr.1 capt Baert proposed text to be added as follows: “Vaccines which are recognised by WHO and EU should be accepted by EU port authorities to facilitate shore leaves and crew changes”. Resolutions were again discussed during the 26th AGA on the 17th September.

Captain D. Dimitrov
President

16th September 2021

Captain H. Ardillon
Secretary General