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THE NEW HORIZON



**THE FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF SHIP BROKERS AND AGENTS**
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2021 NEW YEAR UPDATE

Dear All,

A common expression here in the UK at New Year is “Out with the Old, in with the New” and many traditions have built up around letting the old year out and welcoming the new year in, for example by opening the front and back doors of the house at midnight or sweeping the ash out of the grate and throwing it out the back door as midnight strikes.

No doubt similar versions of these expressions and traditions apply elsewhere around the world, but whatever is said or done, they represent a deeply held need to say goodbye to the old year and the problems we have had, and welcome the new in the hope that it will bring us all a chance to start afresh.

Even if we do not necessarily believe or take part in these traditions, it is likely that after everything we have all gone through in 2020, we can agree with the sentiments and look forward in the sincere hope that 2021 will be better than 2020.

Whatever 2021 brings however, FONASBA will continue to support our members, and their companies and the wider ship agency and ship broking professions, and ensure that we continue to build on the progress we have made in 2020 in raising our profile at the highest levels of maritime decision-making. Let us also hope that we can once again all meet up in person at the Antwerp Annual Meeting, if not before. Until then,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR AND BEST WISHES TO ALL FOR A
SAFE, HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2021!**

JONATHAN C. WILLIAMS FICS GENERAL MANAGER

Summary of actions since June:

- Hosted our first, and hopefully last, virtual Council Meeting
- Created the new “Inspiring our Future (Digitalisation and Automation)” Committee and elected Raymond Troch of Belgium as its first Chair
- Started our Standing Committee plenary meeting webinar programme with the Association Best Practices and Inspiring our Future meetings
- Completed drafting work on the revised UNCTAD Minimum Standards for Ship Agents and Ship Brokers
- Issued regular COVID-19 information bulletins - now totalling 70
- Continued to work with the international group of shipping associations on crew changes and improving the resilience of the shipping industry to new pandemics
- Welcomed GOG Marine of Nigeria as an Associate member
- Expanded the FQS to include Jordan, Estonia and Mozambique, increasing the total number of countries to 44 and almost 600 companies

IN MORE DETAIL:

FONASBA Virtual Annual Meeting 2020:

The contrast between the 50th anniversary Annual Meeting in Miami and the virtual 2020 Council Meeting held on 25th November could not have been more stark, but one advantage of being virtual was that we were able to welcome a total of 114 delegates to the 2020 meeting, the highest number for at least 20 years. Of those, 56 were also attending for the first time. That the meeting started at midnight in Australia, 10 pm in Tokyo and 7 am in Costa Rica shows the fortitude of our members there and we are very pleased they joined us.

To avoid extending the meeting too long, many reports were circulated in advance and the business was largely confined to meeting statutory obligations. These included attending to the financial reporting requirements, amending the Articles and By Laws to allow for the formation of the new “Inspiring our Future” committee and appointing Raymond Troch of Belgium as its first Chair (see below). The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to members.

Whilst welcoming the significant increase in delegate attendance at the meeting and pleased the technology was sufficiently secure to allow it to proceed smoothly, we all hope that this is our first and only virtual Annual Meeting. Plans, updated at the Council Meeting, are well underway for the 2021 Annual Meeting in Antwerp in October and we look forward to the FONASBA family coming together once again in person at that meeting.

“Inspiring our Future (Digitalisation and Automation)” Committee Formed:

As reported above, Council agreed to the formation of this new committee, the role of which is to keep FONASBA members advised of developments in digitalisation and automation as they impact on ship agents and ship brokers, and to guide FONASBA’s policy actions in this regard. It will also operate on a technology-neutral and non-commercial basis. Raymond Troch, the new Committee Chair, has issued an invitation to representatives from member associations or their companies to volunteer to join the Committee’s Advisory Panel. A working knowledge of current developments in digitalisation and automation within the ship agency and ship broking sectors would be an advantage. Volunteers should apply through their national association.

Association Best Practices (ABP) and Inspiring our Future (IoF) Plenaries Start Webinar Programme:

The plenary meetings of the ABP and IoF committees started the 2020 Annual Meeting webinar programme, taking place on 25th November and 9th December respectively. Around 100 representatives of member associations, companies and the general public participated in the IoF webinar (participation in the ABP webinar was limited to association representatives) and both got the programme off to an excellent start. The plenaries of the other three standing committees will be held in accordance with the following timetable:

Ship Agent Committee: Wednesday, 13th January

Ship Broker Committee: Wednesday 27th January

ECASBA: Wednesday, 10th February

These plenaries will be open to all so please circulate the attached Ship Agent plenary flyer to your members. Registration information is provided on the flyer.

UNCTAD Minimum Standard for Ship Agents and Ship Brokers

The draft document, including the references to the FONASBA Quality Standard and Code of Conduct, was completed by the working group in October and endorsed by the UN-CEFACT Bureau (board) in November. It now goes to the UN/CEFACT Plenary in April for final endorsement.

Action on COVID-19

Whilst hoping it would all be unnecessary by now, FONASBA is continuing to monitor developments in relation to crew changes, both across the membership and in conjunction with our international association colleagues. To date we have issued 70 COVID-19 updates and continue to participate in the now bi-weekly conference calls with the group of international organisations that includes the International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO, INTERCARGO and INTERTANKO.

Despite international bodies such as IMO, the United Nations and ILO, supported by the industry group, issuing strong statements calling for seafarers and port workers (including agents) to be classed as essential or key workers, some governments continue to impose unjust and in many cases unnecessary restrictions on the movement of seafarers, whose mental health is suffering, as confirmed by the continued climb in the suicide rate. Much of the work of developing the protocols and procedures for allowing seafarers to travel across countries and through airports has been developed by the industry group, which has also fully supported actions to raise the issue with individual governments and with the European Union.

Membership News:

In November, we were very pleased to welcome GOG Marine of Lagos, Nigeria, as an Associate member and we look forward to their enthusiastic participation in our activities.

Quality Standard Expands to 44 Countries

Coverage of the FONASBA Quality Standard has been extended to 44 countries in recent months, with Estonia (C&FS), Jordan, the Jordanian Shipping Association and Mozambique (Manica Freight) being accredited to it. We now look forward to the rest of the members introducing the Standard to their members.

The number of companies now covered by the Standard stands at nearly 600.

FONASBA

ANNUAL MEETING 2020

“SHIP AGENCY IN THE
TIME OF COVID”

SHIP AGENT
COMMITTEE PLENARY
WEBINAR

WEDNESDAY, 13th
JANUARY 2021



FONASBA

SHIP AGENT COMMITTEE PLENARY WEBINAR

Wednesday, 13th January 2021, 1.00 pm London time

Moderator:

Waldemar Rocha jnr., Chair, the Ship Agent Committee

Programme:

“Keeping Agents Safe on Board” - A new perspective on how to ensure the safety of ship agents during a pandemic

Speakers: Gustav Jakobsen, CEO, Schultz Shipping, Jesper Sebbelin FICS, Chief Adviser, Danish Shipbrokers and Port Operators

“Future Proofing Your Agency Business” - How technology can keep agents ahead of the curve

Speaker: Evangelos Efstathiou, CEO, Skysail Advisors

“The Empty Box Problem” - How COVID has upset the balance of the global container trade

Speaker: Antonio Belmar da Costa, Executive Director, AGEPOR

“Cruising - Into the Future” - A look at future prospects for the shipping sector most affected by the pandemic

Speaker: Antonio Belmar da Costa

Registration is free and open to all!

To book your place, go to:

<https://event.webinarjam.com/channel/FONASBA2>

We look forward to you joining us for this event!



DANISH SHIPBROKERS
AND PORT OPERATORS



SKYSAIL ADVISORS

