



ECSA

European Community Shipowners' Associations

African Union Extraordinary Summit on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa, Lomé 15.10.2016

Side-events 10-15 October 2016 ECSA position

- The European Community Shipowners' Associations (ECSA) very much welcome this African Union summit and is pleased to be invited by the Togolese authorities to participate to these timely and important discussions.
- ECSA endorses the objective of the conference "***The aim of the Lomé Conference is to make maritime space the key driver of Africa's economic and social development.***"
- European shipowners strongly believe that **maritime, particularly shipping, services are enablers of trade and development**. In that perspective, as efficient maritime transport is critical to the region's trade and economic growth, maritime security is a prerequisite for that growth.
- Maritime security is of serious concern to the shipping industry. Unfortunately the **continued piracy situation** in several parts of the world is alarming and shipping companies call for **urgent actions**.
- Maritime insecurity **disrupts trade flows** and has a direct impact on the ability of ports to serve as hubs for parts of the continent. A poor security situation imposes **additional, high costs on imports and exports** and thus jeopardises jobs and economic activity.
- European shipowners are of the view that the following measures can improve the security situation:
 - **Proper protection by local navies**, as stipulated by the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
 - Piracy and armed robbery recognised as **crimes and prosecuted**.
 - **Awareness** and information sharing about the situation in the maritime security domain.
 - Good **coordination of naval assets**.
 - Initiatives on **capacity building**, e.g. through sharing of best practices and technical assistance.
 - An efficient **reporting and coordination system** to respond to incidents.
 - Allow use of **privately contracted armed security personnel (PCASP) on board**, if no other options are in place, without problems to (dis)embark.

ECSA, formed in 1965, comprises the national shipowners' associations of the EU and Norway. ECSA aims at promoting the interests of European shipping so that industry can best serve European and international trade and commerce in a competitive and free business environment, to the benefit of both shippers and consumers. The European Economic Area maintains its very prominent position with a controlled fleet of 40% of the global commercial fleet.

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