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THE NEW HORIZON



**THE FEDERATION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
OF SHIP BROKERS AND AGENTS**
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2020/21 END YEAR UPDATE

Dear All,

The last newsletter was circulated at the end of May and provided a detailed summary of all the actions and initiatives current being undertaken and planned for the near future. Accordingly, this end of year summary will only provide updates on those actions and initiatives and also information on new developments since then. Surprisingly, quite a lot has happened in the last month, as the summary below confirms.

Self-evidently, COVID-19 continues to loom over our lives, both business and personal, but despite feeling like it, the virus is only one of a large variety of subjects being addressed in FONASBA at the current time.

Education remains a major policy item, as does enhancing ECASBA's representation in Brussels, the organisation of the 2021 Annual Meeting, increasing membership and the coverage of the FONASBA Quality Standard and our actions in IMO and at European level. We also continue, as always, to support member associations in their dealings with national and regional authorities and other maritime stakeholders. Seafarers remain in the front line, not only because of the effects of the pandemic but also due to a resurgence of piracy off the coast of Nigeria, and in conjunction with other maritime bodies, we are supporting efforts to prevent attacks on vessels anchored there.

So, there is a lot going on and none of it would be possible without the active engagement and encouragement of the Executive Committee and all our members and their secretariat staff. Both Victoria and I thank you for all your support over this last FONASBA year and look forward to continuing to work with you throughout 2021/22.

Best regards,

JONATHAN C. WILLIAMS FICS GENERAL MANAGER

Summary of current and planned actions and initiatives, more detail on page 2:

- The 2021 Annual Meeting in Antwerp has been rescheduled to take advantage of improving prospects for travel and to hopefully allow a good level of attendance from amongst FONASBA members
- ECASBA has appointed a representative in Brussels to enhance its representation to the European institutions.
- The Ship Agent Committee has stated work on a series of protocols to allow ship agents to safely visit vessels during COVID or any other significant medial emergencies in the future
- The Quality Standard now covers more than 600 companies
- The Young Agent and Broker Award is going ahead for 2021
- FONASBA signs the Gulf of Guinea Declaration against increasing levels of piracy off the Nigerian coast

IN MORE DETAIL:

FONASBA Annual Meeting 2021:

The 2021 Annual Meeting has been rescheduled to allow sufficient time for vaccine rollouts to permit a good level of physical participation in Antwerp. Following agreement by Council in an email vote, the meeting has moved from its traditional October dates to the start of December. The plenary sessions will now run from Wednesday, 1st December to Friday 3rd December, preceded as always by the Executive Committee (30.11) meeting and followed by an optional excursion.

Whilst the change of date has forced a move to a different hotel, albeit still very close to the centre of the city, the rest of the programme will go ahead as planned, as will the social and partners' programmes. It is expected that the physical meetings will also feature virtual segments in the style of webinars for those associations that are unable to travel to Antwerp. Further details of the programme and the subjects for discussion at the meetings will follow in due course.

ECASBA Brussels Representation:

ECASBA is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement with Mr. Frank Janssens, formerly Head of Unit at DG-TAXUD, the European Commission Directorate General for Taxation and Customs Union, to act as its part-time Brussels representative.

Mr. Janssens, who also has wide experience of digitalisation processes and the development of single windows, will support the ECASBA Chair and Advisory Panel through the provision of expert knowledge and guidance across a wide range of subjects, as well as, alongside Chair Marco Tak and General Manager Jonathan Williams, representing ECASBA at various meetings with the Commission services and other European maritime sector associations.

Frank looks forward to working with the ECASBA membership and to meeting colleagues at the soonest possible opportunity.

Ship Agent Committee to develop protocols to protect ship agents during future pandemics:

A small sub-group of the Ship Agent Committee, led by Vice Chair Simone Carlini MICS, is starting work on a series of protocols to enable ship agents to safely visit vessels during future pandemics. Based on the publication "COVID-19: Guidance for Ensuring a Safe Shipboard Interface Between Ship and Shore-Based Personnel", issued by a group of organisations, FONASBA included, in May 2020, the FONASBA protocols will support that document but from a specifically ship agent-focussed perspective. Member associations have been asked to provide input based on practices in place in their in their ports.

It is hoped the first draft of the new publication will be discussed at the Ship Agent plenary meeting in Antwerp at the end of the year.

Quality Standard Expands to 44 Countries

Coverage of the FONASBA Quality Standard recently broke through the 600 company barrier, which underlines the importance of the Standard to ship agents across the membership.

Whilst no new countries have been added recently, we are expecting this to change in the not-too-distant future as a number of our newly-elected Associate members are ISO 9001 accredited and so are eligible to apply for approval to the Standard. A full list of approved companies, and accredited members, can be found on the website at: www.fonasba.com/fonasba-initiatives/fonasba-quality-standard/accredited-companies

Education News:

The FONASBA Young Ship Agent or Ship Broker of the Year Award, also known as the YABA, is being run this year after a twelve-month break. The Award was suspended in 2020 due to the effects of COVID on the ship agency and ship broking sectors but perhaps in a sign of better things to come, it is now back for this year, although due consideration was given to the ongoing effects of the pandemic through the extension of the entry deadlines. A total of five initial synopses have been received and the authors are now working towards their formal entries. The results of the Award will be announced on 14th August and the winner will be invited to attend the Annual Meeting to receive their prizes, generously sponsored by BIMCO and ITIC.

The Agent Diploma continues to attract new candidates (www.fonasba.com/education-and-training/fonasba-agent-diploma) and the ICC and WCO courses are still available to FONASBA members at discounted rates (www.fonasba.com/international-chambers-of-commerce-global-trade-training-courses) and (www.fonasba.com/world-customs-organisation-customs-training-courses).

The Gulf of Guinea Declaration

FONASBA is proud to be a signatory of the Gulf of Guinea Declaration, a call to action against increasing levels of piracy against ships in the Gulf of Guinea. The Declaration was coordinated by BIMCO and has now been signed by more than 300 shipping companies, international organisations and other entities in the maritime sector.

The Declaration calls for action to be taken by coastal states in the region and by non-regional naval forces to address the growing number of attacks on ships and offshore oil installations and kidnapping of crew members, many of which are carried out with high levels of both sophistication and violence. The Declaration also calls for capacity building measures to be introduced with a view to ensuring those caught attacking vessels, and those supporting them from within organised crime groups, are appropriately dealt with to avoid the likelihood or reoffending.