



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Honorary Baltic Exchange life membership for IMO Secretary-General

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Efthimios Mitropoulos was awarded honorary life membership of the Baltic Exchange yesterday (Monday 5 July) in recognition of his services to the shipping industry.

Mr Mitropoulos has served as IMO Secretary-General since 2004 and previously served as head of the IMO's Maritime Safety Division for twelve years.

Making the award, Chairman of the Baltic Exchange Mark Jackson, said:

"Your period as Secretary-General has been marked not just by your skilful management of the complex environmental and other issues confronting shipping as an industry, but also by a deep empathy and concern for all those who go down to the sea in ships, as well as their families."

Under his leadership, IMO has pushed forward a strong environmental and safety agenda with successes in numerous areas including the MARPOL extension, phasing out single hull tankers and more recently securing successful agreements on emissions controls.

Mark Jackson added: "We know that your greatest challenge still lies ahead – which is to find a global, IMO-led solution to carbon emissions from ships. This solution needs to be both economically sensible for shipping and trade as well as meaningful for the environment."

The Baltic Chairman confirmed that Mr Mitropoulos would have the full backing of the Baltic in his efforts to tackle carbon emissions from shipping and to ensure that the leadership of IMO on all matters related to international ocean transportation remains undiluted.

Receiving his award Efthimios Mitropoulos said:

“As a student of history and a lover of all things maritime, I cannot tell you what a genuine privilege it is for me to be received in this, one of the most prestigious temples of international shipping, in the City of London, where the heart of the industry beats stronger than in any other maritime centre of the world; and to have this Honorary Life Membership of the Baltic Exchange conferred upon me. It puts me in the most elevated of company of richly deserving former recipients of the highest stature and is an honour for which I am extremely grateful and very appreciative.”

Also present at the lunch were the UK Minister of Shipping Mike Penning, Intercargo Chairman Nicky Pappadakis and Efthimios Mitropoulos’ son Elias.

Previous recipients of Baltic Exchange life membership awards have included Sammy Ofer (2009), the Duke of Edinburgh (1953), Winston Churchill (1954), and Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller (1991).

## **ENDS**

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## **Notes to editors**

IMO is a UK based specialised agency of the United Nations with 169 Member States and three Associate Members. Its main task is to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping and its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping.

### **E.E. Mitropoulos, Secretary-General, IMO**

Efthimios Mitropoulos was elected Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in June 2003 and took office on 1 January 2004. In November 2007, his mandate was extended for another four year term.

Having started his career in Greece’s merchant navy and Coast Guard, he joined the IMO Secretariat in 1979 eventually becoming the Organization’s Assistant Secretary-General in May 2000.

Author of several books on various maritime subjects, he is Chancellor of the Malmö-based World Maritime University and Chairman of the Board of the Malta-based International Maritime Law Institute.

In November 2008, he addressed the UN Security Council on the issue of piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden prior to the Council adopting a series of resolutions authorizing naval vessels and military aircraft to operate in the area to repress pirates.

He has acted as Secretary-General at several international conferences convened by IMO to regulate shipping from the safety, security, efficiency of navigation and environmental protection viewpoints.

### **The Baltic Exchange**

The Baltic Exchange is the world's only independent source of maritime market information for the trading and settlement of physical and derivative contracts. Its international community of over 570 members encompasses the majority of world shipping interests and commits to a code of business conduct overseen by the Baltic.

Baltic Exchange members are responsible for a large proportion of all dry cargo and tanker fixtures as well as the sale and purchase of merchant vessels.

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