



**MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> CESMA COUNCIL MEETING ON 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2024,  
ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS**

**Those present:**

Captain D. Dimitrov	President, BSMA, Bulgaria
Captain G. Ribaric	Deputy President, ZPU, Slovenia
Captain M. Badell Serra	Vice President, ACCMM, Spain
Captain H. Ardillon	Secretary General, AFCAN, France
Captain H. Ammerlaan	Administrator, NVKK, Netherlands
Captain D. Lakos	Webmaster, ZHUPK, Croatia
Captain L. Van den Ende	NVKK, The Netherlands
Captain I. Conev	BSMA, Bulgaria
Captain I. Paskov	BSMA, Bulgaria
Captain W. Martens	VDKS, Germany
Mrs. Z. Sanchez Varela	ZHUPK, Croatia
Captain T. Crowley	IIMM, Ireland
Captain A. Pels	KBZ, Belgium
Captain G. Lettich	CNPC, Italy
Captain M. Giannelli	USCLAC, Italy
Captain M. Carobolante	CTPC, Italy
Captain F. Vanoosten	HYDROS, France

**The Council is welcomed by the President of CESMA, Captain Dimitar Dimitrov.**

**ITEM 1: OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT**

The President, Captain Dimitar DIMITROV opened the 29<sup>th</sup> CESMA Council Meeting on board SS Rotterdam in Rotterdam. He expressed his thanks to NVKK for organization of present Council and AGA and to Bulgarian Captains from BSMA for the organization of previous Council and AGA at Varna last year. He has a deep thought for previous Secretary General of CESMA, Capt Fredrick van Wijnen who deceased in 2019 after passing long years in the board of CESMA.

Then Capt. Len Van den ENDE, president of NVKK, gave some welcome words to all Council Members. The Council is hold on the SS Rotterdam, a cruise vessel built in 1956, and after years at sea, she is now at berth at Rotterdam as an hotel. Of course we are on a vessel, but he has some reassuring words, as after checking with hotel reception, he can announce that no safety drills will be carried on that day.

Then President Capt. Dimitar DIMITROV declared open the 29<sup>th</sup> Council of CESMA, having no doubt that the discussions these two days will be on important subjects for seafarers and captains.

**ITEM 2: APOLOGIES**

Apologies are received from Members not able to come, due to work, economic or personal reasons (Finland-HSF, Italy-IYM, Latvia-LKKA, Lithuania-LCC, UPKCG-Montenegro, Portugal-SINCOMAR, Romania-ANCR). It is however noted that Latvia-LKKA has sent a proxy vote for items 6 and 11 of the agenda.

Capt. Mariano BADELL says that he is also representing AVCCMM, Spain. As IFSMA was invited to come, but unfortunately unavailable due MSC meeting in IMO, Capt. Van den ENDE, being also vice-president of IFSMA is representing IFSMA.

### **ITEM 3: PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**

As usual, each council member presents himself and mentions the shipmasters' association and which country he represents.

### **ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda, as presented, was adopted.

### **ITEM 5: ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 28<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, VARNA, MAY 2023.**

Captain DIMITROV, CESMA President informed the floor that the minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting had been agreed after the event and already published in CESMA Newsletter. It was sent also by Secretary General several weeks before actual Council and posted on the CESMA website, members area. No remark had been reported and the minutes had been adopted unanimously.

### **ITEM 6: UPKSJ (RIJEKA) ASSOCIATION APPLICATION**

Capt. Hubert ARDILLON, Secretary General, reminded to all Council Members that all documents from UPKSJ and ZHUPK related to this Application were sent some days before the vote in order for everyone to be aware of the proposition.

Capt. ARDILLON makes a short story about the application, when it was received, including partly of the mails received from the both Croatian parties. Particularly, he reminds that UPKSJ was before part of ZHUPK, and decided to separate from ZHUPK on own willing. But being part of ZHUPK, the voice of UPKSJ was already heard in CESMA.

Capt. Bero VRANIC who was with us at that time and delegated by UPKSJ President Capt. Juraj KARNINCIC makes also a brief summary and explains shortly about why UPKSJ separated from ZHUPK at end of December 2023.

Before to proceed to the vote, by secret bulletins, it is decided to have the "coffee break" which could permit to Members to have discussions between themselves.

Then, it is the vote, for which two assessors are nominated: Capt. Len van den ENDE and Capt. I. PESHKOV who do not participate to the vote, NVKK vote from Capt. H. AMMERLAAN, and BSMA vote from Capt. I. CONEV. As there are 11 countries to vote, 10 present and one by proxy, it is decided unanimously that the majority of 2/3 will be counted at 7.

After counting, the result gives for YES 4 votes, and for NO 7 votes. As result, the Application of UPKSJ to be Member of CESMA is rejected.

Capt. Bero VRANIC takes note of the result and decides to leave the Assembly even if President Capt. DIMITROV tells him that he could stay with us.

After the vote, Capt. Crowley in the name of IIMM makes the following statement:

"CESMA is a confederation of bringing associations together. The existing arrangement of associations is a foundation from which to build upon this principle.

If we are to support separation and fracturing of organizations and associations, this will diminish and dilute effective representation. It would support and endorse creation of more associations. Going forward this would result in additional administrative complications, not being in alignment with the spirit of united membership.

It would subject the confederation to more conditions and erode benefits.”

## **ITEM 7: RENDERING OF THE 2023 FINANCIAL PAPERS.**

The financial papers were presented by Secretary General.

Balance of Accounts – Total of both Accounts (Directors and Savings), we see a difference of some 9 000 Euros between the years 2022 and 2023. We were able to save 7 000 Euros this year. On December 2023, we have 60 700 Euros on the saving account, to be compared with the 16 500 Euros yearly budget. And if we add the 21 500 Euros on director account at the same date that means we have almost 5 years budget on both accounts.

### Assets:

We have enough plaques for probably two years more. It will become necessary to see for new plaques, where, model, price and how much, maybe in 2025.

Computer is out of the balance. And it is not necessary to buy a new one. We never go to the office for working on, and Hans has removed it.

About ties, we can wait at least two years more before to get new.

### Income:

Even if missing two subscriptions, we are above the figure budgeted.

One of the missing subscriptions is from Montenegro; however same was paid concurrently with 2024 subscription. The other one missing is from Lithuania, and this is the third following year without subscription. And today for 2024, we have still one subscription missing: Lithuania.

Income on Saving account: Interests are coming back. We can note that for the two first quarters of 2024, interests are already more than full year in 2023.

### Expenditure:

Office rent: we paid in 2023 for one year and a half, but only half a year was paid in 2022.

Website: Much less than budgeted. All is now with Totohost in Croatia. For a good price. Now waiting the answer for to cancel the old email (@previder.nl). It should be cancelled in 2024. In progress.

Banking fees: Budget was increased according to the monthly fees.

Travel board: Just more than half what was budgeted, expenses for travelling to Lisbon, Cork, Brest and Brussels. See with the Activities report.

Board meeting: was done on video.

AGA: 1 000 Euros saved compared with what was budgeted. All Board Members are also coming to AGA for their own association, which explains.

Newsletter: In the budget, the difference each editing is due to the stamps costs.

### Amended budget 2024:

AGA: NVKK asks for a help this year. Waiting for exact amount. AGA is budgeted in order to have no saving this year.

### Subscription fees:

Due to amount on saving account, it is not proposed to increase the fees. And it is not proposed to decrease them.

### Proposed budget 2025:

It is proposed to have for 2025 the same budget than the one amended for 2024

To conclude the financial papers had been adopted.

## ITEM 8: SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Captain ARDILLON presents the Secretary General's Report which gives the activities of CESMA in the year 2023.

In 2023 were meetings holds on internet. This is still a consequence of the virus, most of meetings and conferences can be attended on site and/or on line.

On the subjects were:

- still the wellbeing of seafarers, and a special thanks to Irish member of Cesma Bill Kavanagh for organization;
- skills at sea, actual skills and there are several European projects with different maritime academies, actual skills include English and especially maritime English, another important point in skills is the cyber knowledge;
- also future skills are on the table, the coming of new fuels generates, at last, researches on the safety for these new fuels, mainly during bunkering at port, there are still great uncertainties about the react of some new fuels in case of important leaks ;
- how to attract youth to become seafarer, and it can be noted that, with the exception of MASS seminar in Split, the goal of "no seafarer on board" is not on the table when discussion are about attractiveness and skills.

And how to attract, knowing that since October, it became obvious that in all meetings, even if not dedicated to, were also a place to discuss about security in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

And it was still the case during the first months of 2024. Even if the views of some speakers are not reflecting exactly the problems of seafarers and masters.

About the war in Ukraine and its consequences for Ukrainian and Russian seafarers, it is noted also that it is like if the war ended already. After two years, it does not represent a main subject, like if quite normal situation. Of course, another war came on the front, and as the Red Sea problem is much more important for economic deciders, not for seafarer point of view, the Ukrainian problem seems to be considered solved.

European Maritime Days in Brest, CESMA attends during the two full days. Main subject is the environment. This year it is next week at Svendborg in Denmark, and it is not scheduled for CESMA to attend. Following the program, subjects are: Sustainable Blue Economy, Fisheries and Aquaculture. In 2025 EMD should be at Cork, when dates will be known, we will see with our friends from IIMM how to assist to.

In 2023, we were able to meet EMSA at Lisbon, and we expect to be able to do same next year. To meet EMSA on a two or three years basis seems to be good.

In few weeks we will have in Europe a new assembly of deputies. That means, for SG, few hours in front of computer in order to collect new email addresses, mainly for Searica group, and after we will try to contact new and reelected deputies to meet them if possible. Knowing that each one of us can try also to meet own national European deputies. When the new Searica group will be known, SG will send tl Members the list of concerned deputies.

At the end, Secretary General would like here to express thanks to some of our Associations which organize a conference or seminar. And second thanks when the same can send a report for to be edited in the CESMA Newsletter.

It is important to do so, because that also shows to the CESMA Newsletter readers that we are participating to conferences and able to give our thoughts. And, why not, it could also give one idea to

another Association. Non exhaustive list is on the table: green shipping, cyber security, news fuels, safety on board and in port, navigation and unmanned vessels, and security at sea.

President Capt. DIMITROV proposes to try to hold in the year online meeting with all CESMA Members.

#### **ITEM 9: INTERNET SITE**

The ownership of web site is now entitled to CESMA, one gmail address ([cesmaeurope@gmail.com](mailto:cesmaeurope@gmail.com)) is created and it will receive all mails with invoices from the web hosting.

A general overview will be done on website in order to verify all data of the Associations (name, phone, mail, etc.).

#### **ITEM 10: STATUTES AND BY-LAWS**

Changes proposed consist of inserting the Webmaster in the Board as an associated member (same than Administrator). Of course the duties of Webmaster are inserted, and the duties of Secretary General are modified consequently.

After discussion a new version of By-Law Annex 19-a is adopted unanimously.

#### **ITEM 11: CESMA BOARD RENEWAL**

The four Board members elected were so in 2021 (3 years ago) and in 2020 for the vice president (who was allowed to extend by one year in 2022 at Varna).

The four members are candidates for a second term in the Board. No other candidates come from Associations.

Vote is done for each Board position. All four Board members are reelected for a second term of three years unanimously.

#### **ITEM 12: MEMBERSHIP**

After the controversial vote for UPKSJ Application, it seems it become necessary to review the process of Application. Proposal should be done before next Council – modification of By-Law – to clarify the process.

It is also proposed by President to hold the annual Board Meeting in one Member Association office or country, changing yearly.

About Lithuanian Association, Board will try again to contact it, maybe with the help of Latvia Association.

#### **ITEM 13: COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS.**

We have good contacts with IFSMA, particularly for the Red Sea matter, with exchanges on security measures. President is also in close contact with EMPA.

#### **ITEM 14/15: RESOLUTIONS (FROM 28<sup>TH</sup> AGA & NEW PROPOSALS).**

Past year resolutions were discussed and amended, new resolutions are proposed by members to the Council.

## **ITEM 16: INVITATION FOR THE NEXT AGA.**

Secretary General Capt. ARDILLON reads a message from Portuguese Member Association SINCOMAR telling that SINCOMAR is candidate to organize the 30<sup>th</sup> Council and AGA in Lisbon in May 2025. President Capt. DIMITROV shows a power point to present Lisbon and the facilities where Council and AGA could be organized. Intention is to hold the Council in SINCOMER office and AGA in EMSA premises. A letter is sent soon after the Council to ask EMSA for authorization.

## **ITEM 17: ANY OTHER MATERS**

Capt. Giovanni LETTICH, CNPC Italy, makes an update of the Jolly Nero case. It is actually the second trial and the sentences should be known end of June, all going well. Of course as soon the result known, same will be forwarded to all Members.

Actual sentences required are: Captain for 7 years, First Officer for 5 years, and Chief Engineer for 4 years.

Capt. Damir LAKOS reports about one Croatian captain actually in prison in Turkey. During loading in Colombia, during search by Columbian Authorities drugs were found on board and taken ashore, then vessel was release to sail to Turkey. Captain reported same to the agent of the vessel, and to the local authorities at arrival port in Turkey. Turkish authorities came on board and again some drugs were discovered. As a consequence, and despite the facts that the captain warned for the first discovery, all the crew – 9 members including captain, were arrested and imprisoned. Next step will be around mid-June at the court. However it is already required 15 000 Euros and again 100 000 Euros for defending. The imprisoned captain being member of the Split Association, part of ZHUPK, Croatian Association ZHUPK is in contact with the captain.

A point is done on the status of CESMA Advisors: the two advisors actually inserted in the CESMA Newsletter should be renewed, one being dead and the other without any answer. The Council Members ask all Association to check internally and to present Advisors if possible. Advisory is to be considered under volunteer, free of charge for CESMA, and can cover legal and technical (separately of course).

## **ITEM 18: CLOSURE BY PRESIDENT**

Council was closed at 17:00 by President Capt. DIMITROV after a very fruitful day of debates.

**Captain D. Dimitrov**  
**President**

**Captain H. Ardillon**  
**Secretary General**