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13 November 2020

**COMMUNICATIONS(20)11**

**TO: COMMUNICATION LEADS  
BOARD**

**SHIPPING INDUSTRY URGES GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE FORWARD USD 5  
BILLION PROPOSAL TO ACCELERATE THE DECARBONISATION OF MARITIME  
TRANSPORT**

***Action Required: Members are asked to share the press release with stakeholders and local media contacts after 00.01 GMT on Monday 16 November.***

Ahead of the MEPC 75 meeting next week at IMO ICS, along with partner organisations involved in the development of the joint industry proposal to form the International Maritime Research Fund (IMRF) to create a \$5billion R&D Fund for the shipping industry, have issued a joint statement to the media reiterating the commitment of the industry to decarbonise and highlighting the vital need for R&D to facilitate this transition. Attached at **Annex A** is the joint statement which we have issued under embargo for 00:01 GMT on Monday 16 November (not to be published until after this time). Members are invited to share this with local media contact, and as appropriate add a quote from your own association. We also ask that you share this with your stakeholders after 00.01 GMT on Monday, 16 November.

We look forward to a positive reception by member states and we will of course keep members informed of developments in due course.

Stuart Neil  
Communications Director

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 GMT November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Shipping industry urges Governments to take forward USD 5 billion proposal to accelerate the decarbonisation of maritime transport

**London/Washington, November 13, 2020 – As governments come together at the UN International Maritime Organization (IMO) to consider important next steps to decarbonise maritime transport, the global shipping industry urgently calls on them to take forward its proposal for an industry-financed, USD 5 billion research and development programme, to catalyse the transformation of the industry from dependence on fossil fuels to operating with zero-carbon energy sources.**

Although total emissions from shipping are about 7% lower than in 2008, there is a limit to what can be achieved so long as ships remain dependent on fossil fuels and global demand for maritime services continues to grow. The carbon reductions required by the IMO target of reducing total emissions from international shipping by at least 50% by 2050 compared to 2008, will only come from identifying and developing new zero-carbon technologies so that commercially viable zero-carbon ships can begin to operate in the 2030's.

There are several potential solutions, such as hydrogen or ammonia produced from renewable energy sources, but these do not yet exist in a scale or form that can be applied to large ocean-going ships. A host of complex technical questions remain to be answered, including safety, storage, distribution, energy density considerations and lifecycle impacts. In short, we do not yet know what the fuels of the future will be.

The shipping industry has therefore proposed a USD 5 billion R&D programme, to be overseen by IMO and financed through a required R&D contribution of USD 2 per tonne of marine fuel consumed. The R&D programme would be managed through a non-governmental research and development organisation – an *International Maritime Research and Development Board* or IMRB. The co-sponsors emphasize that for the proposal to work, the R&D contributions need to be compulsory via an IMO regulation, to ensure that all shipping companies globally contribute, in a fair and equitable manner, and that the necessary funds will be generated to achieve the programme's objectives.

A number of governments are understood to be positive to the proposal, subject to addressing issues such as governance.

The Industry is eager to work with governments to ensure that this initiative is implemented as soon as possible and calls on the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee to support the development of the IMRB concept at its critical meeting starting November 16<sup>th</sup>. The IMO 2050 climate targets can only be achieved with the immediate acceleration of zero-carbon fuels and technologies, and the IMRB is a crucial vehicle for driving the progress needed to build a zero-carbon shipping industry.

### Highlights of the International Maritime Research and Development Board (IMRB) proposal:

- The IMRB would be quasi-independent, subject to IMO Oversight, with the sole duty to accelerate the research and development of low-carbon and zero-carbon fuels, energy sources, propulsion systems and other new GHG reduction technologies, operating under a Charter approved by the IMO.

- An International Maritime Research Fund (IMRF) would provide industry financing for the IMRB research and development programmes, collecting about USD 5 billion over a ten-year period via contributions of USD 2 per tonne of fuel consumed by every ship.
- Other relevant stakeholders such as energy suppliers, technology companies, research and development institutions and foundations would be welcome to participate and contribute to the International Maritime Research Board and its work.
- The IMRB is designed to work itself out of a job in 10-15 years by delivering research and development projects that will then allow commercial entities to provide the technologies and services that will move proven technologies into the global fleet by the 2030s, so that the IMO target for 2050 can be achieved.
- The shipping industry organisations behind the proposal emphasise that the USD 2 contribution is not to be seen as a market-based CO2 reduction measure as it would only exist for a defined technical purpose – the acceleration of R&D for zero-carbon propulsion systems.

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:** The international shipowner associations making this proposal, which collectively represent all sectors and trades and over 90% of the world merchant fleet, are:

- [BIMCO](#)
- [CRUISE LINES INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION](#)
- [INTERCARGO](#)
- [INTERFERRY](#)
- [INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING](#)
- [INTERTANKO](#)
- [INTERNATIONAL PARCEL TANKERS ASSOCIATION](#)
- [WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL](#)

**Contact:**

<insert your organisations details>