



FOR RESPONSIBLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY  
FRIENDLY SHIPPING



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## Preamble

As key stakeholders in world trade, French shipowners are committed to making shipping more competitive and ever more attentive to Humans and the environment.

# Observations

THE ACTIONS AND EFFORTS OF FRENCH SHIPOWNERS ON ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MATTERS ARE CONTINUING TO YIELD RESULTS.



## 1. A young, high-quality French fleet

With an average age of 10.5 years as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019 (compared to 17 years in the world), it is one of the youngest and safest fleets in Europe. More than fifty companies operate nearly 1,000 ships, around 400 of which under the French flag.



## 2. Recognised excellence of the French flag

The French flag is one of the safest and best performing in the world. With its high standards in terms of safety, security, care for the environment and social protection, the French flag is top of the Paris MoU<sup>(1)</sup> White List. It also received special recognition in 2018 from the International Chamber of Shipping for the environmental, social and safety performance of its ships.



## 3. An environmentally friendly mode of transport

Over the past 20 years, shipping has considerably reduced its environmental impact (significantly curbed hydrocarbon pollution, improved energy efficiency). While it accounts for 90% of global goods transport, shipping only generates 2.8% of total greenhouse gas emissions<sup>(2)</sup>.



## 4. The safest mode of transport

The continuing decline in maritime accidents is the result of years of commitment, mobilisation, regulation and innovation.



## 5. An activity that creates attractive jobs

Shipping represents 26000 direct jobs in France, 16 000 seafarers and 10 000 sedentary staff.

# Objectives

THE MARITIME SECTOR ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS AT GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS, ENSURING THAT IT CONTROLS ECONOMIC IMPACTS, MAINTAINS A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD AND REMAINS OPERATIONAL AND EFFECTIVE IN ITS INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS.

With a view to the pursuit of sustainable development goals, Armateurs de France, the trade association of maritime transport and service companies, offers French shipowners the opportunity **to renew and bolster their efforts and commitments:**

- **In terms of corporate social responsibility**, because industrial relations and improved working conditions are the primary concern of our member companies. They are moreover the primary mission of Armateurs de France.

- **in terms of environmental responsibility**, because the impact of shipping on the environment and public health is a priority for shipowners. They are committed to:

- Reducing their environmental footprint from construction to dismantling, and during ship operation (air emissions, discharges at sea, waste management on board, protection of biodiversity).
- Engaging in proactive measures with and for their trading partners to achieve the goals of protecting the environment and reducing the environmental footprint of shipping.

All shipping companies that are members of Armateurs de France adhere to the commitments of the Blue Charter, regardless of the flag flown by their ships. These commitments aim to promote the creation of a shipping sector that is communally dedicated to achieving a successful transition to a low-carbon economy, while pursuing an overall objective of sustainable development, which encompasses major issues in the field of corporate social responsibility.



<sup>(1)</sup> MoU = Memorandum of Understanding.

<sup>(2)</sup> 2.8% of GHG emissions (in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent) for 2007-2012 - Third International Maritime Organisation (IMO) GHG study, 2014.

# Commitments

## 1. PLACING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF OUR CONCERNS

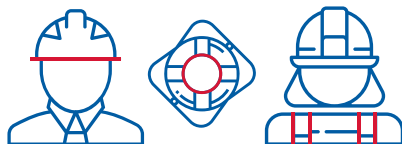
WORKING CONDITIONS, QUALITY OF LIFE ON BOARD AND ASHORE AND TRAINING ARE KEY FACTORS FOR THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF SHIP CREWS.

### Ensuring good working and living conditions

- Conduct preventive actions in the field of health, safety, security and dignity at work.
- Ensure the well-being of employees.
- For seafarers: Under the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), a fundamental charter of the social rights of seafarers, French shipowners pledge to:
  - Apply conditions relating to pay, leave, working conditions and social protection that go beyond those defined by the International Labour Organisation,
  - Support the use of a common working language clearly understood by all and ensure that the crew composition in terms of number of nationalities represented is not an obstacle to effective communication on board,
  - Provide adequate hygienic and living conditions for everyone living aboard,
  - Protect crews against external threats (e.g. piracy).

### Promoting transparent and efficient management

- Favour partners (commercial, ports, dockers, suppliers, classification societies) that include social and environmental concerns in their strategies.
- Promoting equal opportunities:
  - There shall be no form of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of gender, race, colour, ethnic or social background, religion or belief, political opinions or trade union membership, birth or disability, age or sexual orientation,
  - Professional gender equality must be guaranteed in terms of jobs, work (sharing of professional responsibilities), pay, career development and training.



### Promoting employment and training

- Maintain the employability of personnel and promote diversity in the company.
- Strengthen the employability of personnel and promote the hiring of people with disabilities wherever possible.
- Invest in training as a permanent priority.
- Promote access to:
  - Basic training,
  - Vocational training: offer employees the opportunity to improve their skills and promote social advancement (recognition of prior learning, etc.).
- For seafarers:
  - Help defend French shipping jobs by lobbying for administrative and policy decisions,
  - Support maritime high schools, the action of the École Nationale Supérieure Maritime and take on its students as part of their mandatory internship,
  - Promote the conversion of seafarers to shore-based jobs,
  - Contribute to the promotion of maritime professions.

### Promoting quality of life at work

- Engage with all stakeholders to improve quality of life in company workplaces.
- Understand the evolution of the working environment and support change.
- Maintain a healthy work-life balance.
- Experiment and share innovations in quality of life at work.

### Fostering social dialogue

- Develop a responsible social dialogue and a relationship of trust at all levels.
- Ensure that employees and their representatives are informed and, if necessary, consulted in a timely manner.



## 2. ACTING TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

**BEYOND THEIR REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS, SHIPOWNERS UNDERTAKE TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE THEIR ACTIONS IN FAVOUR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT.**

### ACTING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

#### Atmospheric emissions

- Adopt a proactive attitude in reducing ship emissions (greenhouse gases, sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides and particles).
- Promote the introduction of technologies and the use of fuels that limit the environmental impact of maritime transport: alternative fuels such as LNG<sup>(1)</sup> or hydrogen, bio-based fuels or fuels produced using renewable energies, use of exhaust gas cleaning systems, dual-fuel propulsion (battery and diesel), ship-to-shore power, wind or wind-assisted propulsion, improvements in hull and propeller performance, etc.
- Favour operational measures such as speed optimisation and optimised port manoeuvres that limit atmospheric emissions when safety and operating conditions allow.

#### Protection of the marine environment, including on the high seas:

- Work with the managers of Marine Protected Areas and research institutes (facilitate research, specific operational measures).
- Equip ships operating in an area where marine mammals, particularly cetaceans, are known to be present, with collision avoidance devices and advocate collaborative work to improve these devices.
- Fight against the transfer of invasive species (by choosing ballast water treatment systems, antifouling hull paints, etc.).
- Participate in research into reducing underwater noise and follow the recommendations of the International Maritime Organisation to reduce underwater noise.
- Be vigilant and adapt vessel operations (course, speed) in sensitive sea areas.

<sup>(1)</sup> Liquefied Natural Gas.

#### Waste

- Adopt a strategy for the efficient reduction and effective processing of waste aboard, specifically plastic waste, unsorted waste and non-recycled waste.
- Work with ports to engage in an efficient and effective approach to waste when it is landed.

#### Eco-construction and dismantling of ships

- Promote a clean, safe, intelligent and energy-efficient ship of the future and projects in investments for the future, with the ambition of building eco-responsible and innovative ships.
- Ensure safe and environmentally friendly ship recycling in accordance with the European Regulation and promote the ratification of the Hong Kong Convention.

#### Navigation in polar areas

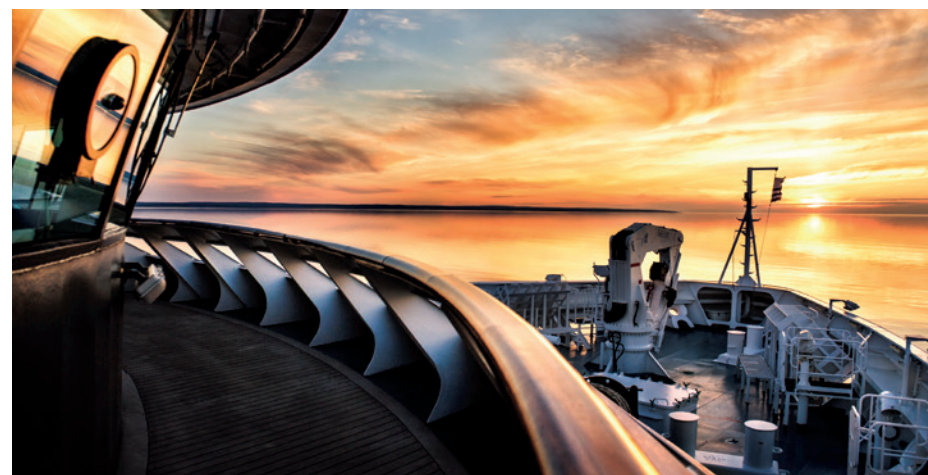
- Go beyond the mandatory requirements of the Polar Code by progressively implementing its recommendations, in particular by extending the ban on the use of heavy fuel oil in the Arctic.

#### Crew training

- Educate seafaring and land-based personnel in the protection of the environment and marine ecosystems.
- Encourage environmental training of crews (energy specialist, eco-efficient navigation).

### DETERMINING THE BEST TRANSPORT LOGISTICS

- Promote intermodality, wherever possible, through rail and inland waterway transport, in order to reduce the carbon footprint of transport.
- Promote modal shift (from land to sea).





## DEVELOPING A PARTICIPATIVE, COLLECTIVE AND PROACTIVE APPROACH

This approach requires constructive thought, discussion and actions with public and private stakeholders in the sector. Armateurs de France's Environment steering committee is the ideal body to promote and implement these commitments.

- Promote the establishment of "green" solutions: LNG, biogas, LPG<sup>(1)</sup>, Marine Renewable Energies, hydrogen, hybridisation, etc.
- Contribute to thought and work aimed at further reducing the various types of authorised emissions and discharges.
- Support the implementation of the European Union's Integrated Maritime Policy to ensure Good Environmental Status while enabling the sustainable development of the blue economy.
- Actively contribute to discussions with marine environment associations, and more broadly, environmental protection associations.
- Be active within the French delegation to the International Maritime Organisation.
- Speak with a united voice on behalf of French shipowners at various national, European and international events (Conference Of Parties), by Armateurs de France and by ICS<sup>(2)</sup> and ECSA<sup>(3)</sup>.
- Participate in working groups asked with formulating the sustainable development and ecological governance of the marine environment (e.g. the French National Coastal and Ocean Council, the French Maritime Cluster, the Conseil Supérieur de la Marine Marchande, the Comité France Maritime, The Baltic and International Maritime Council, Cruise Lines International Association, the World Shipping Council, the Ocean and Climate Platform, the French Office for Biodiversity).
- Monitor the implementation of relevant recommendations to the profession of the Interministerial Marine Affairs Committee.

## 3. MAINTAINING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SAFETY

- Apply rules of corporate governance consistent with safety requirements: establish stringent operational procedures and verify their application, provide necessary human resources and equipment.
- Support crew safety training throughout their careers.
- Maintain the ranking of the French flag at the top of the Paris MoU white list.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Armateurs de France's member companies undertake to comply with this Blue Charter and provide transparent information on the conditions of its application.

Shipowners' actions in application of the Blue Charter will be promoted through a range of communication initiatives conducted by Armateurs de France.

Every year, a company will be awarded a "Blue Charter" Trophy by a panel of experts. Its aim is to promote the commitment of shipowners to socially and environmentally responsible shipping.

<sup>(1)</sup> Liquefied Natural Gas <sup>(2)</sup> International Chamber of Shipping. <sup>(3)</sup> European Community of Shipowners Associations.



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