



EU WATCH

Newsletter from
Danish Shipowners' Association, Brussels office
November 2009

State Aid to Shipping Companies Raised in Brussels

On 7 October 2009, the Danish Shipowners' Association held an extensive meeting programme in Brussels to discuss state aid to shipping companies. The aim of this initiative was raise the awareness of a number of key EU officials on this complex issue and draw their attention to the recent worrying developments across Europe.

The Danish Shipowners' Association underlined the fact that state aid has an anti-competitive impact and only contributes to delaying the necessary market adjustments caused by the current economic crisis.

The different points raised by the Danish Shipowners' Association were positively received by different parts of the European Commission dealing with the current cases in Germany and France. Several other parts of the EU institutions also confirmed their concerns and it was stressed that there is a continuous need to submit any relevant information on state aid to both politicians and EU administrators.

Conclusions of the Council of Ministers Prior to COP15

On 21 October 2009, the EU Member States' 27 environment ministers met in Council to discuss the EU's common position ahead of the Copenhagen Climate Conference. There was a consensus amongst members that the global climate objectives for shipping should be included in any future "Copenhagen Agreement" and that the elaboration of a more precise set of rules should take place within IMO in order to avoid distortion of competition and re-flagging. It is foreseen that an agreement is reached in 2010 and adopted in 2011. The EU27 ministers for environment agreed on an ambitious target of 20% reduction in 2020 compared to the level in 2005 for maritime transport. These conclusions were subsequently approved by EU heads of government and state. From the Danish Shipowners' perspective, we find the inclusion of an absolute reduction target of that dimension very worrying, particularly as it does not take into consideration future development in the world trade. It remains to be seen whether the final agreement, after the negotiations in Copenhagen, will reflect the EU's high ambitions.

Danish Shipowners' Association Brussels Representation
34, avenue des Gaulois, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium



DANISH SHIPOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Tel: +32 2 230 81 41
Email: brx@shipowners.dk
Website: www.shipowners.dk