



CESS, Committee for Expertise of Shipbuilding Specifics (CESS) held its annual meeting in Nantes, France on 28 August, 2014 where the member associations Japan, Europe, China, Korea and U.S.A. gathered and discussed key issues surrounding the global shipbuilding industry. The meeting was hosted by Europe.

The delegates reviewed CESS's activities from the past year and the activities expected to come, and exchanged views to seek further cooperation in voicing common opinions on shipbuilding issues.

The participants agreed that CESS continued to appeal as a platform to share views and develop common positions on important issues, especially regulatory, and to communicate these to counterpart organisations in the maritime industry.

The delegates discussed important ongoing issues, in particular, the reduction of GHG emissions from ships, where the maritime industry continues to focus on improvements for existing vessels. The shipbuilding industry continues to contribute to seeking practical and effective solutions for existing ships, whilst continuing to work on newbuilding ships. Furthermore the sector is committed to working closely with the ship-owners and classification societies to enable the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI) to function smoothly.

Furthermore the implementation of the Ballast Water Convention, as well as the protection of intellectual property rights (striking a balance between safety and environmental regulatory requirements), were also discussed by the delegates.

One of the most important issues where a common conclusion was drawn by the CESS members is that careful impact assessment is needed involving relevant industry stakeholders when drafting new

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regulation. This would result in the proactive adoption of new technologies and allow the industry to demonstrate their effectiveness for meeting the objectives of new regulation. As a result there could be smoother adoption and acceptance for new rules by the whole maritime community.

A report on Port State Control activities as part of the Paris and Tokyo MOU's during 2013 was made. It was noted that both regions were steadily carrying out their port state control activities as in previous years. The report showed that the shipbuilding quality related deficiencies were kept at low levels, and that ship detentions have been improved in relation to previous years. The ship types which characterises aged ships, such as reefer fleet and general cargo fleet have shown above average detention rates. An improvement of these detentions may be possible as the older ships will be replaced in the future by new ships or, other ship types. Age related observations need to be closely monitored because some ship types consistently showed detention rates rise after reaching certain age.

CESS member associations noted that closer ties among its members are becoming more and more important for the future prosperity of the industry. In the year ahead, further activities and the effective promotion of joint solutions for the aforementioned issues is essential to continue the work of CESS. CESS will report on its activities at the forthcoming meeting of the JECKU (Shipbuilding) Top Executive Meeting scheduled to take place in Paris, from the 5th-7th of November, 2014.

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