

Press Release

**EU ROs and Maritime Stakeholders Mutually Recognise Each Other's Positions
for the Sake of an Efficient and Safe Classification Process**

Five years since Art. 10 of Regulation EC 391/2009 entered into force, EU ROs and manufacturers cooperate to overcome issues related to the newly introduced procedure for the acceptance of Mutual Recognition Certificates

Brussels, 5 June 2014

The European Recognised Organisations (ROs) and SEA Europe held a joint workshop on the Mutual Recognition of Classification Certificates. The main aim of the workshop was to create an understanding among all the stakeholders involved in the classification of maritime technology and address some of the open issues related to the implementation of Mutual Recognition. Along with representatives of the EU ROs and the maritime technology industry the workshop attracted participants of the European Commission, Flag States, Ship-owning associations and Insurers.

The main themes of the workshop looked at the principle motivation behind the development of the Mutual Recognition process by the EU ROs and the perceived perception of the industry. Presentations were followed by an open discussion forum looking at four pre-identified themes which sought the active participation of the attendees:

1. Competitive Advantage
2. Involvement and Cooperation of Industry in Technical Developments
3. Global Acceptance of Mutual Recognition Certificates
4. Way Forward

Issues were raised and discussed and on each of the themes recommendations were proposed for further action. "The atmosphere among all the participants was positive and there is an element of trust being built between the industry and the EU ROs, which generates the feeling that the present classification system can change for the benefit of the industry, whilst ensuring the highest levels of safety" said Douwe Cunningham, SEA Europe Secretary General. "Going forward we, as European technology manufacturers, have to assess if the ultimate goal of the industry, of reducing administrative burden and cost, can be realised. This is the prime motivation of the industry for pursuing the mutual recognition of certificates".

Peter Müller Baum (VDMA), Chairman of the SEA Europe Working Group for Classification, stressed that "clarity has to be sought on the international acceptance of the certificates before the industry widely accepts it. In the meantime by building up experience of the Mutual Recognition Certificate it will demonstrate to the sector that it has added value and will eventually ensure that all Flag States will recognise this".

SEA Europe will continue to work with the European Commission and the EU ROs to see effective Mutual Recognition of Classification Certificates. The ultimate aim of SEA Europe is to envisage one set of rules and certificates meeting the highest level of safety requirements whereby classification societies would compete on value added services to the industry.



SEA Europe Background Note:

SEA Europe brings together CESA and EMEC and represents an industry which generates more than €72 billion turnover annually and offers employment in high profile jobs for more than 500 000 Europeans. The association represents close to 100% of the European shipbuilding industry in 18 nations, encompassing the production, maintenance, repair and conversion of all types of ships and floating structures, commercial as well as naval including the full supply chain with the various producers of maritime systems, equipment material, and services.

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