
NITL and WSC Welcome ICC Statement on Rotterdam Rules

June 1, 2009 – Washington, D.C. ~~ The National Industrial Transportation League (NITL) and the World Shipping Council (WSC) welcome the statement issued last week by the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) lending the support of the World Business Organization's Commission on Transport and Logistics to the new Rotterdam Rules convention. The statement was released after the Commission's Maritime Transport Committee reviewed the Convention and asks governments to consider its ratification based on a set of objectives considered important to international trading interests. The ICC Commission represents all sectors involved in international transport, including shippers, carriers and forwarders. These objectives were communicated to the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) by ICC at the outset of the Convention negotiations in 2002 and have been supported by NITL and WSC throughout those talks.

In the paper, ICC states that "...the proposed regime will underpin an important element of international commerce." Also, that "The Convention aims to provide uniformity for the international carriage of goods, which at the current time is governed by a number of maritime liability regimes, absent of a global convention for multimodal transport and e-commerce." In that regard, the first objective listed by ICC is "the importance of a harmonized liability regime for maritime transport and related door-to-door transport and the need to avoid regionalization."

ICC also states that it "stands ready to proactively facilitate business input into national and international discussions on the ratification of the Rotterdam Rules, with a view to bringing about uniformity in this important area of international law."

NITL and WSC are members of the United States Council for International Business (USCIB) which is the U.S. member organization of the ICC.

The NITL is an association of companies that conduct industrial and/or commercial shipping throughout the United States and internationally. Founded in 1907, the League is one of the oldest and largest associations representing some 700 member companies involved with the transport of all kinds of freight, using all modes, in both domestic and international commerce. For more information about NITL, visit www.nitl.org.

The World Shipping Council is an association of liner shipping companies with offices in Washington, D.C. and Brussels. Its members transport over 90 percent of international containerized trade. The Council's goal is to provide a coordinated voice for the liner shipping industry in its work with policymakers and other industry groups interested in international transportation issues. For more information about the World Shipping Council, visit its web-site at www.worldshipping.org.

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