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21 MAY 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

ICS AND ISF MEET IN LONDON

The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Shipping Federation (ISF) held their Annual Meetings in London, from 18-20 May, at the invitation of the UK Chamber of Shipping. The representatives of national shipowners' associations, from the membership of 40 countries, discussed a number of important issues of concern to this major global industry.

The meetings coincided with the Centenary of ISF (the principal international maritime employers' organisation for shipowners) which held its first meeting in London, in May 1909.

[...]

ROTTERDAM RULES ON TRANSPORT AND CARGO LIABILITY

National shipowners' associations endorsed an ICS campaign to encourage governments to ratify the new Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea, adopted by the United Nations

General Assembly last year. It will be formally signed by governments at a ceremony in the Netherlands in September 2009, and will then be known as the 'Rotterdam Rules'.

Mr Polemis explained:

“Our meetings concluded that, although far from perfect, the new cargo liability regime must be promoted by the industry in the interests of international uniformity and to avoid the risk of a proliferation of regional regulations. Our national associations have agreed to encourage their governments to attend the signing ceremony in Rotterdam and sign the Convention in order to signal their intent to ratify as soon as possible”

He added

“It is very disappointing that the European Commission is proceeding with the development of a regional EU cargo liability regime that will undermine the Rotterdam Rules and global uniformity. We have agreed that European ICS Members will encourage EU Member States to resist the Commission’s proposals and ratify the Rotterdam Rules as soon as possible.”

[...]

End

Notes:

ICS is the principal international trade association for shipowners, ISF is the principal international maritime employers' organisation.

The organisations represent all sectors and trades and about 80% of the world merchant fleet.

More information on the above and other issues is available in the **ICS and ISF Annual Review 2009**, which has just been published.

Information about the ISF Centenary can be found in **ISF1909-2009 - Representing Maritime Employers for 100 Years**, a commemorative book published to coincide with the Annual Meetings.

Both publications are available in electronic form at www.marisec.org