

InterManager Outlook

Measuring milestones as we plan for tomorrow



2024



InterManager Secretary General Kuba Szymanski looks back on an eventful 2023, and forward to 2024.

As this year draws to a close it is useful to take stock and look back on some InterManager milestones. Foremost of these is the launch of our new General Principles of Conduct and Action. These groundbreaking principles will undoubtedly raise standards in our sector and give the wider shipping industry a means by which to evaluate our services.

Ship management is evolving and today our members offer a wide range of added value and bespoke services which provide ship owners and operators with a myriad of opportunities and methods to streamline their operations in a sustainable way.

The shipping industry is moving steadily towards a more sustainable, efficient and environmentally friendly future. This year the International Maritime Organization achieved unprecedented agreement from all its member states to adopt ambitious new decarbonisation targets. InterManager was present at these crucial debates, representing our members' point of view and working with stakeholders and industry groups to ensure proposals are practical and workable.

InterManager continues to work closely with the IMO. We welcome the appointment of Arsenio Dominguez Velasco to the role of Secretary-General and look forward to enhancing our working relationship with him and his team. InterManager is pleased to be the record keeper for a range of industry statistics, particularly relating to lifeboat safety and deaths in enclosed spaces, and we take an active role in working groups which aim to update and improve IMO legislation to protect seafarer health and wellbeing.

The turn of the year heralds a new challenge for ship operators – that of implementing the European Union's Emissions Trading Scheme. On behalf of its members, InterManager engaged in high-level discussions to influence

and inform decision makers, also seeking legal advice to ensure the scheme has the best chance of achieving its environmental objectives in a practical way. We will be monitoring how the scheme operates in 2024 and will provide a platform for members to raise concerns and speak out. As our President regularly reminds us, by speaking with One Voice we speak louder and have more influence!

Although small, InterManager's secretariat is extremely active on our members' behalf. We engage in industry dialogues, attend - and even chair - stakeholder groups, and also campaign on key issues. Our members are themselves proactively involved in sharing information and best practice and it is heartening to be part of email discussions where members raise an issue and share their experiences to identify solutions – something which happens on a regular basis.

Looking forward to 2024, we will begin the year with our Annual General Meeting which is being held at the IMO's London headquarters on Thursday 18 January. We look forward to welcoming many members and associate members, as well as invited guests and industry colleagues to take part in our conversations. Contact me if you would like to attend or for information about how to become an InterManager member.

Meanwhile I am pleased to report that our members are already putting into action our General Principles of Conduct and Action. We have several firms currently undertaking the self-assessment process and we urge all our members to endeavour to complete their first assessment by April to enable everyone to begin this shared journey towards high standards in a sustainable, efficient, and transparent way.

I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a successful New Year! ●