International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners

Roy Nersesian and Subrina Mahmood

I. Introduction

The International Association of Dry Cargo Shipowners (Intercargo) has the objective of promoting and protecting the interests of private, independent owners in the dry cargo sector of the shipping industry. Intercargo’s focus is on influencing and coordinating industry views on safety, efficiency, and environmental regulations. It works closely with owners, operators, and managers of dry cargo shipping, and other international associations – especially BIMCO, ICS, and Intertanko (better known as the Round Table of International Maritime Associations). Intercargo presents and communicates industry concerns to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Association of Classification Societies (IACS), and the European Commission to ensure that the regulation of shipping is done in a manner that is both effective and efficient, with the belief that the shipping industry should operate in a safe and equitable manner with due regard for high quality standards. Intercargo also believes that the industry should offer a fulfilling career for seafarers. Intercargo represents approximately 70 Full and 64 Associate members from all over the world and is headquartered in London.

II. Origins and Development

In 1980, Antony Chandris, a Greek ship owner, decided to create an organization to serve the needs and interests of dry cargo ship owners. The first meeting was held that year with founding members from Greece, Scandinavia, and Hong Kong. The membership grew over the next 20 years to over 100 companies and groups controlling approximately 30 million tons deadweight.

Intercargo is the only association completely dedicated to the needs of the dry cargo industry, providing leadership and authority for a variety of pertinent issues within the shipping community. Intercargo acts as a platform
for continual development of a safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly dry cargo maritime transport industry. Intercargo encourages its members to serve global and regional dry cargo transport needs in a competitive, yet safe and profitable manner and is committed to strengthening the position of dry cargo owners and managers in the global market. Intercargo is a strong advocate for the development of regulations on a global, not regional basis.

III. Membership

Intercargo offers membership in two different categories: Full and Associate. Full Membership is open to companies that own, operate, and/or manage dry cargo shipping. Associate Membership is offered to companies that provide goods and/or services to the dry cargo shipping industry. The advantages of being a member of Intercargo include being part of an organization dedicated to pursuing the interests of dry cargo owners and operators and providing a platform for the discussion and advancement of various issues that affect the industry. A small, but active Committee structure exists to serve the membership needs including Intercargo’s Technical, Commercial, and Executive Committees (CASTEC) and the Executive Committee providing the strategic direction for the industry. The secretariat is able to respond to specific requests for information and assistance from their members.

Intercargo holds observer status at IMO and is represented at all IMO meetings relevant to the dry bulk sector. It is also a member of various IACS Working Groups responsible for the development of Technical Standards relevant for the dry bulk sector. Intercargo’s Full and Associate members can network with each other at Intercargo’s bi-annual Committee meetings held alternately in Europe and Asia. Past Committee meetings dealt with a variety of issues such as Chinese dry-bulk prospects, criminalization of seafarers in pollution incidents, proposed EU changes related to pooling, hazardous dry bulk cargoes, common structural rules in ship design, and dry bulk market prospects.

IV. Organizational Structure

The Management Committee and Secretariat oversee Intercargo’s committees and panels with direct contact with the press, ship-owner associations, International Maritime Organization (IMO), its members, and other organizations involved with Intercargo.