



Media Release - Monday 18 July 2011 – immediate release

Cruise Industry welcomes ‘practical and fair’ IMO decision to protect Baltic Sea

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) and the European Cruise Council (ECC) welcomed the decision taken last week (15/7/11) by the International Maritime Organisation’s (IMO) Maritime Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) to create ‘Special Areas’ to further protect environmentally sensitive seas from sewage discharges. In particular they support the designation of the Baltic Sea as such a sea area, with an agreement on associated protective measures.

Robert Ashdown, ECC Director for Technical, Environment & Operations said: “This decision represents a meaningful and responsible way forward for all parties involved in our collective efforts to address the health of the waters in the Baltic region. We were pleased to participate in these important changes and to be instrumental in delivering an agreement that meets the environmental objectives of the Baltic Sea States in a manner that is both practicable and fair.”

He added: “An appropriate agreement has been reached concerning the obligations of all Baltic Sea ports to upgrade their facilities to permit ships to discharge sewage into those facilities. To that end, we remain committed to working with HELCOM to assist the Baltic Sea states in defining and delivering adequate reception facilities.”

He continued: “As part of these ongoing efforts to reduce eutrophication in the Baltic Sea we also welcome the associated resolution developed and agreed at IMO which highlights the urgent need to complement reception facilities with the development of onboard treatment technology as an alternative means of compliance.”

CLIA and ECC, many of whose members already have on board the most advanced waste water treatment systems available, will also engage positively in further developing the technical standards at IMO that will be needed by the manufacturers of these systems.

Robert Ashdown concluded: “Additionally, until the amendments to MARPOL Annex IV enter into force, CLIA and ECC members will continue to manifest our voluntary commitment by using shore based reception facilities when available and will continue to further assist with the development of additional reception facilities in the Baltic.”

Note to Editors:

1. European Cruise Council (ECC) is the association representing the leading cruise operators in Europe, with 30 cruise members and 34 associate members.
2. Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) CLIA is the world’s largest cruise association composed of 25 of the major cruise lines serving North America and serves as a non-governmental consultative organization to the International Maritime Organization, an agency of the United Nations.
3. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

Contacts:

Robert Ashdown Director - Technical, Environment & Operations, ECC +44 (0)77 38 009 230 Robert.Ashdown@cruiseCouncil.eu	Mark Watts Media Spokesman for the ECC +32 (0)474 06 01 85 markwatts@luther.co.uk	Eric Ruff Media Spokesman for CLIA + 1 703 522-8463 eruff@iccl.org
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------