



UNION OF HELLENIC
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Brussels Representative Office



Arbeitsgemeinschaft Norddeutscher Industrie- und Handelskammern
-Vertretung bei der Europäischen Union-

Association of Northern German Chambers of Commerce and Industry
-Representation to the European Union-

Association des Chambres de Commerce et d'Industrie de l'Allemagne
du Nord -Représentation auprès de l'Union Européenne-

Press Release

March 15, 2010

Chambers to Establish European Maritime Network BLUE CHAMBER NETWORK Kick-off Workshop

Under the auspices of Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Vice-President of the European Parliament, some 30 maritime Chamber experts will convene at the European Parliament on March 16, 2010, for the *Blue Chamber Network* Kick-off Workshop.

The *Blue Chamber Network* is a joint initiative of the EU Representations of the Union of Hellenic Chambers and the North German CCI's. This unique network will serve as a platform facilitating cooperation among European maritime Chambers in the general interest of the economy. Its purpose is:

- To pool maritime expertise from national, local, regional Chamber organizations from across Europe;
- To pro-actively shape EU maritime policy initiatives in the current legislative period;
- To facilitate Chambers' participation in EU projects.

The founding of the *Blue Chamber Network* is a direct response to the EU's new Maritime Policy symbolized by the March, 2005 Communication "*Towards a future Maritime Policy for the Union*" which recognizes the vital strategic importance of maritime industry to the European Union's economy. This implies pro-active positioning and policy-shaping by CCI's with maritime interests.

The *Blue Chamber Network* targets EU maritime policy initiatives of strategic importance for European CCI's with a direct impact on European SMEs, e.g. in the fields of security and safety, transport and logistics, environment, internal market and competition, trade and human element, fisheries and tourism.

The Kick-off Workshop will be opened by EU Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Maria Damanaki followed by sessions in which Chamber Experts will discuss current maritime policy issues and set the stage for the *Blue Chamber Network's* agenda.

For more information please contact:

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