



GSA Joint Statement

On Tuesday October 11th, the Global Shippers' Alliance held its annual meeting, hosted in Bangkok by the Thai National Shippers' Council.

GSA welcomed the newly elected chairman of the Asian Shippers' Alliance, Dato' Dr. Ir. Andy Seo, chairman of the Malaysian National Shippers' Council.

At its annual meeting , the Global Shippers' Alliance (GSA) has published a manifesto on minimal service levels in maritime container transport.

The goal of this manifesto is to describe a minimal level of service and fair treatment that shippers can expect in maritime container transport. It works as a benchmark to assess services offered and delivered by carriers. It can be seen as a suggestion for a Bill of Cargo Rights.

Background

The crisis in global supply-chains already exists for a considerable time. Disruptions are most visible in the maritime container transport. Legislation allowing monopolist tendencies in the market (like the Block Exemption Regulation in Europe) is an important cause of the present bad market situation. Competition, an important driver for an acceptable service level is to a great deal limited in the present maritime transport markets. Especially small and medium sized shippers suffer a lot from this situation.

The manifesto can be found on the website of GSA. <https://globalshippersalliance.org/>

Continuing talks with maritime carriers and regulatory bodies

Based on the manifesto, GSA will continue to liaise with ocean carriers and relevant authorities to improve co-operation between partners in the supply chain. The lack of fair competition added to the existing lack of transparency in the market and eroding service levels. Competition authorities worldwide should have more investigative power into carriers behavior. GSA will engage with these authorities like the US FMC, the European Commission and regulatory bodies in Asia to enhance competition and ensure fair trade.

Importance of digitalization and sustainability

GSA acknowledges the importance of digitalization and sustainability in the supply chain and the responsibility of shippers to play their part. Particularly in the session on digitalization emphasis was put on the necessity to create digital data exchange platforms and single government windows and on how to structure progress on digitalizing SME-supply chains, with concrete initiatives in that direction.

Members also shared the progress in respective countries about subjects like ESG, green shipping and reduction of carbon emissions.

About Global Shippers' Alliance

The Global Shippers' Alliance (GSA) represents the logistics interests of manufacturers, retailers and wholesalers, collectively referred to as shippers. GSA unites the Asian Shippers' Alliance (ASA), the European Shippers' Council (ESC), and the American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI).

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