

"BREAK BULK & LINER OPERATIONS"

Empros Lines
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Over the last years containerization expands continuously covering activities that in the past used to be covered by breakbulk vessels. More and more commodities are now loaded into containers including many bulk cargoes.

There are several reasons which encourage containerization, such as safer way of transport (important for delicate or valuable goods), regularity in the sailings with calculated transit time, avoidance of delays in congested ports, door to door service, the possibility for the receiver of the cargo to place orders for smaller quantities, easy storage and in many instances lower transportation costs, etc. Ports are investing in suitable infra structure for the containers, which further facilitates containerization.

Despite the above there is still a niche market of breakbulk liner activities covering many trades worldwide.

In the past many shippers were deeply involved with the transport of their products organising and maintaining big shipping departments in order to cover their needs. Over last few years many shippers decided to change their policy in this respect realizing that their main task is to produce and trade their commodities leaving the transport to the specialists. Thus for every destination where they trade they are using two-three reliable carriers who work closely with their shipping departments achieving competitive freights and the peace of mind that their commodities will



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be loaded, carried and delivered to their clients safely and on time.

The shipping company is also acting as an advisor to the trader or shipper giving all sort of information concerning peculiarities, difficulties or restrictions in the trade. In many

instances, the carrier is committed towards the shipper with contracts of affreightment thus the shipper can calculate and fix his transportation cost.

Empros Lines is one of these companies specialized in the breakbulk liner business. The company has provided international seaborne trade with liner services from the Northern Europe to East Mediterranean ports continuously since 1950. The last year the company is offering regular sailings from the Continent and Black Sea ports to West Africa. Empros Lines has always offered its customers a variety of separate liner routes within the region - some actually tailored to their specific needs - for the carriage of an assortment of cargoes. The only common denominator has been its commitment to the concept of traditional breakbulk/conventional, parcel and project cargoes of all sorts. A deliberate choice was made, during the transition to the containerisation era, to establish a presence in and to develop and maintain a niche facility for those consumers who cannot, or choose not to ship their goods in containers. Liner operators are usually more involved than other shipowners in the improvement of cargo handling techniques and they often participate actively in developing those ports at which they call regularly. Empros Lines is organized and operates in this spirit.

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