

Athens, 28th February 2013

PRESS RELEASE

"2013 CAPITAL LINK GREEK SHIPPING LEADERSHIP AWARD"

More than 950 delegates attended **Capital Link's 4th Annual Greek Shipping Forum "Navigating through Challenges & Opportunities"** which took place on **Wednesday, February 27, 2013** at the **Hilton Hotel in Athens, Greece**.

This year we initiated the "**Capital Link Shipping Leadership Award**", which aims to recognize the patriarchs of Greek Shipping, those pioneers who over a long period of time made a significant contribution to elevating Greek Shipping to its leadership position globally.

The "**2013 Capital Link Shipping Leadership Award**", was presented in the context of the Forum to **Captain Panagiotis N. Tsakos, a patriarch in the Greek shipping community, by Professor Costas Grammenos, Pro Vice-Chancellor, City University London, Cass Business School during the luncheon.**

H.E. Konstantinos Moussouroulis, Minister of Shipping, Maritime Affairs & the Aegean, made brief remarks during the Luncheon.

Mr. John Platsidakis, Chairman, INTERCARGO was the Keynote Speaker at the Luncheon, and addressed the audience on "**Navigating Through Challenges and Opportunities**".

Capt. Panagiotis N. Tsakos was born in Kardamyla on the island of Chios, Greece from parents both descending from seafarers' families. For young Panagiotis the sea has always been in his blood; thus, going to sea was a natural course rather than a choice. Yet, this destiny was due to become a lifelong passion which created a distinct marine culture in the years to come. Capt. Tsakos studied the profession of becoming a captain and graduated from the Livanos Marine Academy at his hometown Kardamyla in Chios, the birthplace of a number of prominent personalities of the maritime industry. He then embarked on a maritime career, promoted through the ranks to Captain and thereafter advanced to a shipping executive with a major Greek Owner. Striking out on his own, it was natural for him to lead a small group of investors-comprised of family members and friends- on to the acquisition of the first Tsakos Shipping & Trading S.A. ship, back in 1970. Surrounded by his brothers and friends, inspired by his life time companion and wife Dr Irene Saroglou, and thereafter supported by his beloved children Niko and Maria, he has lead that little company to its current proportions of a diversified fleet of approximately 70 vessels, whilst expanding its investment base and attaining successful sustainable growth over all these years, through good and bad times for the industry. Captain P. N. Tsakos has always been a fervent advocate that the ultimate and basic driving force of the Group's success is its people and moreover the officers and crew onboard vessels. Within this context he devotes most of his time in his own people – the seafarers – attracting and maximizing human (male & female) potential and enhancing advancement of talented and committed associates both onboard and ashore. Within this context he visualized and created The Maria Tsakos Foundation- International Centre of Maritime Research and Tradition, aiming to promote social acknowledgement of the maritime profession and further enhance its growth potential in the generations to come.

Professor Costas Grammenos is Pro-Vice Chancellor of City University London; and Deputy Dean (Head of Undergraduate School since 2003) of its Cass Business School. He founded the International Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance in 1983 (renamed by City University London, The Costas Grammenos International Centre for Shipping, Trade and Finance in April 2007). He has been head of the Centre since its inception and responsible for its design; and, until 1997, was Director of the world class MSc Shipping, Trade and Finance, introduced in 1984. The Centre introduced the MSc Trade, Transport and Finance in September 1997 (now known as MSc Supply Chain, Trade and Finance); and the MSc Energy, Trade and Finance in 2003. The Centre has gained international recognition for its applied research in the areas of shipping finance, shipping and financial risk management, commodity trade and finance, logistics and supply chain management; and is a major platform for international dialogue between senior business executives, government and academia. More than 2400 students, from over 100 countries, have graduated over this period, many of them are holding leading positions in international banking, shipping and trading, and manufacturing sectors. In 2006 he became Founding President of the Governing Board of the newly established International Hellenic University, Thessaloniki, Greece.

He was born in Athens in 1944. He has a BA in Economics (Pantion, Athens), MSc. in Financial Economics (Bangor, Wales). In 1999 he was awarded the highest academic accolade, the DSc. in Shipping Finance (City, London), for creating - through his published research - 'Shipping Finance' as a new academic discipline, and for his "significant contribution to knowledge in Shipping, Trade and Finance"

ABOUT CAPITAL LINK

Capital Link is a New York-based Advisory, Investor Relations and Financial Communications firm. Capitalizing on our in-depth knowledge of the shipping industry and capital markets, Capital Link has made a strategic commitment to the shipping industry becoming the largest provider of Investor Relations and Financial Communications services to international shipping companies listed on the US and European Exchanges. Capital Link's headquarters are in New York with a presence in London and Athens. In our effort to enhance the information flow to the investment community and contribute to improving investor knowledge of shipping, Capital Link has undertaken a series of initiatives beyond the traditional scope of its investor relations activity, such as:

- ***www.CapitalLinkShipping.com***: A web based resource that provides information on the major shipping and stock market indices, as well as on all shipping stocks. It also features an earnings and conference call calendar, industry reports from major industry participants and interviews with CEOs, analysts and other market participants.
- ***Weekly Capital Link Markets Report (e-Newsletter)***: Weekly distribution to an extensive audience in the US & European shipping, financial and investment communities with updates on the shipping markets, the capital markets and listed company news.
- ***www.CapitalLinkWebinars.com***: Sector Forums & Webinars: Regularly, we organize panel discussions among CEOs, analysts, bankers and shipping industry participants on the developments in the various shipping sectors (containers, dry bulk, tankers) and on other topics of interest (such as Raising Equity in Shipping Today, Scrapping, etc).
- ***Capital Link Investor Shipping Forums***: In New York, Athens and London bringing together investors, bankers, financial advisors, listed companies CEOs, analysts, and shipping industry participants.
- ***www.MaritimeIndices.com***: Capital Link Maritime Indices: Capital Link developed and maintains a series of stock market maritime indices which track the performance of U.S. listed shipping stocks (CL maritime Index, CL Dry Bulk Index, CL Tanker Index, CL Container Index, CL LNG/LPG Index, CL Mixed Fleet Index, CL Shipping MLP Index – Bloomberg page: CPLI. The Indices are also distributed through the Reuters Newswires and are available on Factset.

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