

KEYNOTE SPEECH

**BY REAL ADMIRAL H.C.G. TSANTZALOS EVANGELOS ON
BEHALF OF THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, MARITIME
AFFAIRS AND THE AEGEAN Mr. MILTIADIS VARVITSIOTIS &
THE COMMANDANT OF THE HELLENIC COAST VICE
ADMIRAL ATHANASSIOS ATHANASSOPOULOS**

At the eMARITIME project presentation

(Yachting Club of Greece, Piraeus, Tuesday, 27.05.2014)

Distinguished participants,
Ladies & Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation to attend the e-mar presentation and to address its main theme on behalf of the Minister of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean Mr. Miltiadis Varvitsiotis and the Commandant of the Hellenic Coast Guard Vice Admiral Athanassios Athanassopoulos. The aim of the event to identify the contribution of e-maritime services in the maritime transport domain by describing the transmission of the information flows among all the relevant stakeholders is being strongly supported by the Hellenic Maritime Administration. Your initiative comes at a point of particular relevance for Greece under its capacity as Presidency of the Council of the EU, a very important maritime dimension that I will have the opportunity later on to present it to you in more details.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

The theme that you have chosen for today's meeting under the title "eMARITIME: Advanced maritime transport information management" is for sure at the highest point of our priorities representing the cutting-edge technologies for maritime community not only at a European level but also at an international one. Having said that, projects such as "emar" aiming at fostering the use of advanced information technologies, stimulating coherent, transparent, efficient and simplified solutions in support of cooperation, interoperability and consistency between Member States and transport operators, are definitely the appropriate technological tools for the implementation of our European policies and legislation such as the Directive 2010/65/EU on *reporting formalities for ships arriving in and/or departing from ports of the Member States*.

In this context, the Hellenic Maritime Administration right from the start of the creation of the concept of how to facilitate international maritime traffic has actively worked with its counterparts at IMO, especially FAL Committee and at the deliberations in the context of the Council of the EU when examining the so called reporting formalities Directive and former Directive 2002/6/EC for the introduction of the FAL forms in the EU legislation.

Additionally we have been one of the frontrunners at the relevant EU fora when introducing the concept of Maritime Single Window, highlighting the need to enhance facilitation of the provision of maritime services using modern ICT technologies. Hence, it has been recognized just from the very beginning that,

before applying any technological tool, a common understanding at EU level should have been established. In this respect we have stressed the necessity for harmonization of the implementation of the aforementioned Directive whilst simultaneously promoted the eMARITIME concept as well as other EU initiatives such as the Blue Belt, having as ultimate goal the reduction of the red tape by simplifying the administrative procedures.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Greece through its competent maritime authorities is actively participating in all the relevant experts working groups and fora at EU level, such as the EMS, SafeSeaNet and LRIT, the High Level Steering Group of the SafeSeaNet and as a partner to projects of high significance such as the IMP Demonstrator and ANNA Project.

It is evident that there is a European strong momentum for the further promotion of the e-maritime advantages. Most recently, on the 7th of May 2014 the Informal Maritime Ministerial Meeting of the Member States of the EU and States of the EEA took place in Athens, as an initiative of the Hellenic Presidency of the Council of the EU, in which the Maritime Transport Ministers unanimously adopted the “Athens Declaration” on the “Mid-term Review of the EU’s Maritime Transport Policy until 2018 and Outlook to 2020”.

One of the most important issues, which has emerged from the “Athens Declaration” and shall constitute one of the EU’s shipping policy priorities in the years to come was the need for efficient EU-wide digital maritime services and the promotion of EU’s leading role in maritime technology & innovation.

Within the context of the recently adopted "Athens Declaration", the Ministers urged "the Commission and the Member States to continue work on further digitalization and simplification of administrative and operational procedures and the consequent reduction of administrative burden for the facilitation of maritime traffic, especially through the full and swift implementation of the Blue Belt including e-Manifest, the related e-Maritime services, and the development and deployment of national single windows in accordance with Directive 2010/65/EU, taking also into account the relevant IMO developments, in order to set up a European maritime transport space without barriers and to improve competitiveness;".

Ladies & Gentlemen

It is obvious that the proper policy and legislative framework has been already established gathering together policies and legislation and paving the way forward for eMARITIME services within the EU but also in international context. What is needed now is concrete actions. The "Emar project" is an indicative example of how our EU framework can be interpreted into advanced maritime transport information services. My strong belief is that during this journey, authorities and port users should go hand in hand.

Having said that, I would like to reaffirm the will of the Ministry of Shipping, Maritime Affairs and the Aegean for the promotion of the following two main goals:

a) the facilitation of the maritime traffic of the shipping operations and b) the simplification of administrative procedures and the reduction of the associated burden.

Last but not least, I strongly believe that this conference is an excellent opportunity for all the participants to be aware of the recent advances in the eMARITIME platform and allow me to wish you a fruitful outcome of your work.

Thank you very much for your attention.