

## 2nd Shipping Conference in Athens on 28 Sept 2011: “Shipping Today and Tomorrow”



*Mr. G. Sarris at the 2nd Shipping Conference*

Mr. George Sarris, President of ESTSA, presented as key speaker the constraints of shipmanagement on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Shipping Conference held in Greece. The audience consisted of decision makers from the shipping industry consisting of ship managers, statesmen (politicians), financiers, classification societies, accounting firms, security professionals, universities etc. Some of the topics discussed on the panel were the global financial crisis, the piracy off the coast of Somalia, quality services, crew capability and future environmental challenges. Questions and answers generated high interest and provided a lot of information to the audience.

put together this event. The scope of the convention was to inform the business world and especially companies operating within the Greek and international shipping market about the current and future challenges of the shipping industry.

Moreover, Mr. Alex Tzortzopoulos, EST's QHSE Manager was a panel coordinator in “Shipmanagement: New trends in ship inspections-More Safety, Environment, Quality or Security?”

The participants

highlighted matters related to the quality, safety, environment and security pointing out the national and



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international requirements while quality had a prominent, if not imperative role with Rightship's Mr. David Peel. Rightship is an international vetting company which assesses the performance of dry cargo ships through onboard inspections/audits and QHSE performance such as Port State Control Inspections among other. As a

result it allocates a rating for each ship which assists charterers to charter or not that ship.

Mr. Tom Wiker Director of Compliance of Gallagher Marine Services' a QI firm (Qualified Individual) provided the audience with valuable information regarding the new and future trends in USCG's. A QI firm is a company in the USA where in case of pollution it coordinates all activities and communications for

mitigating (limiting) the impact of the pollution with the local authorities. More information on QIs can be found in OPA 90 regulation.

Addressing the two-day Conference, Piraeus Port Authority (OLP) CEO, George Anomeritis stressed that the Greek economy should be based on the triptych shipping-tourism-culture to overcome the current crisis. He referred to the importance of the seaport economy and to the privileged geographic position of the port of Piraeus in the eastern Mediterranean.

**As mentioned, this was the second shipping conference held in Athens and one only hopes that the effort will continue (every two years) bearing in mind of the beneficial impact and contribution that shipping and seafarers have to world's society.**