

EST S.A. receives the Gold Bee Award from EBEN GR

Enterprises Shipping and Trading S.A. received the Gold Bee Award on the 11th of September further to an assessment carried out at our premises on the 7th of June 2009.



Mr. Victor Restis was handed the Gold Bee award by Mr Antonis Gortzis, President of the Hellenic Institute of the business ethics, the retiring President of the European Business Ethics Network, Prof. Luc Van Liedekerke and the new President of EBEN Prof. Alejo Jose G. during a Gala Dinner held at the Yacht club honouring the companies that succeeded in EBEN GR Bee Model application.

This took place after the end of the 22nd EBEN Annual Conference that referred to "Pathos for Ethics".

While receiving the award, Mr. V. Restis stated that *"being awarded by the EBEN makes us proud of the business ethics practices we have applied all these years since the first day of our establishment."*

It is beyond any doubt that Greek shipping companies have greatly contributed to the Greek economy. But, it is believed that some of the business practices applied in the field of shipping were not aligned with business ethics, which has given a bad reputation and a negative public image of the shipping industry.

Business Ethics will ensure business development and sustainable growth and will lead towards a social and economically responsible organization.

Business Ethics is the present and the future of every successful organization and every Greek Shipowner should be aiming towards this direction."

In a recent economic forum convened by the United Nations, it was stressed that "corporate social engagement must be part of core business strategy".

Indeed, today more than ever, ethics should be put in the core of every organization's strategic planning. A major reason for this global economic crisis that has had an impact on everyone's business life was due to the lack of sustainable governance controls, CSR policies and ethical practices.

The 22nd EBEN Annual Conference was unique, as EBEN wished to pay a tribute to the Ancient philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle who pioneered the concept of "ethos" and "areti" (virtue).

The EBEN model is developed by the Greek chapter divided in three assessment levels and consists of Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility criteria, crossing each other into the Standard Corporate Code which is to the heart of the model. Enterprises has reached the final level, however, this will not stop us from seeking through business ethics, new methods, systems and development tools that will assist us to improve our overall performance and to achieve sustainable growth.