

Surabaya, Indonesia, Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Global Shippers' Alliance Joint statement ASA – ESC – AAEI

### Cooperation strengthened by MOU

Witnessed by the national Ombudsman of the Republic of Indonesia, his Excellency Danang Girindrawardana, The European Shippers' Council, The Asian Shippers' Alliance and the American Association of Exporters and Importers, today signed a memorandum of understanding underlining their cooperation in the field of air freight, ground and maritime transport and trade facilitation. By joining forces, they formed the Global Shippers' Alliance (GSA), to represent shippers' interests worldwide. Subjects that are important to shippers are, amongst others, fair pricing of transport including surcharges in maritime and air transport, proper competition, security and customs regulations, standardization to facilitate data exchange, terminal handling charges and service levels in international transport.

The GSA intends to engage in constructive dialogue with national governments, supranational bodies, NGO's, transport organizations and organizations of logistic service providers and strive for better cooperation so international trade can thrive, economic growth can be ensured and society can benefit.

The GSA agreed upon a joint working program for 2015 – 2016 and published a position paper on the future of airfreight. Similar papers will be published on maritime transport, trade facilitation and environmental issues.

GSA cordially invites other shippers' organizations to join GSA or cooperate on shared subjects.

### Chairman for ASA elected

The ASA elected Mr. Toto Dirgantoro of the Indonesian National Shippers' Council as its first Chairman and Mr. Nopporn Thepsithar of the Thai National Shippers' Council as Vice Chairman. As Secretary General the Chairman appointed Mr. Isdarmawan Asrikan. The office of the Chairman will provide the secretariat. The Chairman will stay in office for a period of two years after which another member of ASA will take over as per alphabetical order starting from 'I'.

### Economic review and situation

The global economy is still not back on track, albeit that signals for a careful recovery can be noticed. A weak Euro and a strong dollar are directly influencing exports, sometimes slightly positively, sometimes negatively. Indonesia and

Thailand see a reduced competitiveness and export. In addition some markets see a rise in production costs due to rising cost of labour and in some cases energy. For some markets it is difficult to influence the total value chain. In most markets export as well as logistics are placed high on the agenda of governments. Shippers' organizations provide governments with valuable information and strategies to boost exports.

#### Freight rates, surcharges and other charges

Shippers' are concerned in addition to substantially fluctuating freight rates, about the still increasing number of charges and surcharges that are unexpected, unreasonable and unacceptable. Especially with the current oil prices there is no reason to still levy heavy fuel surcharges. Also steep rise in terminal handling charges (THC's) in for instance Korea, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Macau and Thailand is unreasonable. Some liners have increased the THC's with 70% or more. GSA calls for shippers worldwide to reject these surcharges. GSA will engage with national governments to intervene and call for a fair and transparent pricing structure. GSA will also explore other possibilities to increase transparency in pricing structures.

#### Alliances / Conferences

Rising THC's are just one example of the signals that alliances / conferences in maritime transport will lead to lack of competition and unnecessary costs, drive up prices and slow down economic growth. In addition GSA is worried about the expected call for block exemption by alliances / conferences in a growing number of markets. GSA calls for fair competition laws and just implementation.

#### GSA at Intermodal Asia 2015

A delegation of GSA will be present at Intermodal Asia in Shanghai on March 25<sup>th</sup>. They will present the first ever Shippers' Panel at an Intermodal Fair, placing shippers center stage. The panel will address the specific needs and requirements of shippers in international transport regarding service levels and pricing, especially in maritime and airfreight transport as well as trade facilitation issues. More information can be found on <http://www.intermodal-asia.com/>

Jointly signed by

Hong Kong Shippers' Council

Indonesian National Shippers' Council

Shippers' Council of Bangladesh

Macau Shippers' Association

Korean Shippers' Council

Thai National Shippers' Council

European Shippers' Council

American Association of Exporters and Importers

For more information, please visit [www.globalshippersalliance.org](http://www.globalshippersalliance.org)