



WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL
PARTNERS IN TRADE

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For Immediate Release

Liner Shipping Industry Welcomes Extension of the European Commission's Consortia Block Exemption Regulation

The European Commission today extended the effective period of the consortia block exemption regulation (BER) for an additional five year period until April of 2020. The regulation provides a "safe harbor" under European competition law for vessel sharing arrangements that have a market share up to 30%. The World Shipping Council commends the European Commission for continuing to recognize both the benefits of vessel sharing consortia and the importance of the consortia BER to the efficient operation of those operational arrangements.

"Vessel sharing arrangements are an established and essential part of the liner shipping networks that carry the international trade of the European Union and the rest of the world," said WSC President and CEO Christopher Koch. He added: "Consortia allow carriers to provide their customers with better services at lower cost, with improved environmental performance."

The Commission's block exemption regulation provides legal certainty to carriers and transparency to the shipping public about the rules under which consortia operate. Koch noted: "In this most international of businesses, it is essential that the rules are clear and that everyone has the same understanding of what those rules are. The consortia block exemption regulation provides that clarity, which makes the system more efficient and more predictable. That benefits everyone involved."

The liner shipping industry transports over 33 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) of imports to and exports from the European Union annually that are valued at more than \$1.6 trillion and is estimated to contribute more than \$65 billion each year to the economy of the European Union.

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See [www.worldshipping.org/public-statements/regulatory-comments/WSC ECSA ICS Consortia BER Comments March 2014.pdf](http://www.worldshipping.org/public-statements/regulatory-comments/WSC_ECSA_ICSConsortia_BER_Comments_March_2014.pdf) for a copy of the comments filed jointly by the World Shipping Council, the European Community Shipowners'

Associations, and the International Chamber of Shipping in support of extending the effective date of the consortia BER.

ABOUT THE WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL: The World Shipping Council is an association of liner shipping companies, with offices in Brussels and Washington, D.C. The Council's members carry over 90 percent of international containerized trade. The Council's goal is to provide a coordinated voice for the liner shipping industry in its work with policymakers and other groups interested in international transportation issues. For more information about the World Shipping Council and the liner shipping industry, please visit www.worldshipping.org.

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