

Green Recycling Contract team tackles Convention challenge

The team of industry experts assigned the task of developing a new standard green recycling contract for the industry has spent two days at BIMCO House delving into the intricacies of incorporating green recycling procedures into a commercial agreement. Led by sub-committee Chairman, Robert Almstrom of Stena Lines, the group has begun an examination of the Hong Kong Convention on ship recycling to establish which elements of the Convention can be reflected in a commercial agreement for those owners wishing to “green” recycle their vessels. The challenge for the group is that until such time as the Convention comes into force, there will be an interim period during which the various major ship recycling States take the necessary steps to comply with the infrastructure and administrative requirements of the Convention. However, this means in reality that any owner who wants to “green” recycle his vessel in accordance with the Convention even before it comes into force (and a number of owners are now undertaking such “green” recycling) may find difficulty in locating an authorised State recycling yard and obtaining the necessary certification.

The original objective of the recycling contract Sub-committee was to develop a standard agreement that could be used not only once the Convention comes into force, but also in the prior interim period. This, however, has proved to be a difficult objective to achieve as the end result might be an overly complex contract that would not appeal to end users. The group will now focus its attention on drafting an agreement that applies specifically to the interim period, taking into account industry guidelines on green recycling and reflecting those parts of the Convention that can be given commercial application voluntarily by the parties.

The agreement, code named RECYCLECON, will not be designed to accommodate the beaching of vessels as this runs contrary to the concept of green recycling in terms of protection of the environment. This approach is consistent with the Hong Kong Convention, although the Convention does not expressly exclude beaching.

Work on this project will continue in early October and the sub-committee hopes to have a first draft ready for the consideration of the Documentary Committee at its autumn meeting on 12 November in London. The members of the RECYCLECON Sub-committee are Mr Robert Almström, Stena RoRo, Sweden (Chairman); Mr Briac Belvert, Eckhardt Marine GmbH, Germany; Mr Henrik Aadnesen, Nordisk, Oslo; Mr **Dimitris Ayvatoğlu, Leyal Ship Recycling Ltd, Turkey**; and Mr Wouter Rozenweld, Maersk Ship Management, Rotterdam (Broker).



The RECYCLECON Sub-committee discussing drafting issues. (From left to right: Wouter Rozenveld, Maersk; Robert Almstrom, Stena Lines (Chairman); Briac Belvert, Eckhardt Marine (on video link); Mr Dimitris Ayvatoğlu, Leyal Ship Recycling Ltd; and Henrik Aadnesen, Nordisk.)

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