



## International Commission on Shipping

**Chairman:**  
Hon. Peter Morris  
**Commissioners:**  
Mr. James Bell  
Prof. Moritaka Hayashi  
Capt. Barry McKay

Thursday, 22 June 2000

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION SUPPORTS SHIPPING INQUIRY

E C Transport Commissioner Loyola de Palacio has given full support to the objectives of the Shipping Inquiry being carried out by the International Commission on Shipping [ICONS].

In a letter to the Chairman of ICONS Peter Morris, Commissioner De Palacio stated that the activities of ICONS can be a very useful supplement to other actions taken within the context of the quality shipping campaign such as EQUASIS and the Industry Quality Charter.

She said her services would be happy to co-operate with ICONS.

Peter Morris welcomed the strong support expressed by Commissioner De Palacio. He said it would strengthen the backing for the Inquiry being given by the British, Netherlands, Singaporean, Philippines, Canadian and Australian administrations and a wide range of industry organisations.

He said it was increasingly clear that plague of sub standard shipping would only be eradicated by the determination of governments across the world to ensure that there was full public accountability of the activities of all parties associated with the operation and use of international shipping.

He said that ultimately the operations of sea transport would become transparent like other forms of transport.

The public anger surrounding the MT ERIKA disaster off the French coast on December 12 1999, was a measure of peoples' growing impatience with the failure of some sectors of the shipping industry to comply with international maritime safety standards.

Mr Morris said that a steady flow of submissions was being received and these were being paced on the web site for public examination as soon as they were cleared with the submitters.

He said the first public hearing would be held in Sydney, Australia on the Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2000 at the Masonic Centre commencing at 9.30 am. The Commission would then proceed to Singapore for meetings on the 26<sup>th</sup> July.

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