

UNION OF HELLENIC CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PRESS RELEASE

Mr. Georgios Kassimatis, President of the Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UHCCI) and Deputy President of Eurochambres, spoke of the need to create a unified European Union shipping policy. He was participating in the proceedings of the Eurochambres Presidency meeting with the Eastern European Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which took place in Belgrade. The proceedings of the meeting were observed by Boris Tadić, President of the Republic of Serbia.

After highlighting the Greek presence in the shipping industry over the years, the UHCCI President underscored the fact that it is important for economic potential of marine and shipping differences to be recognised, so that the EU can revitalise its economy. He added that special emphasis must be given to the strategic importance of shipping in today's global economy, since the EU has the opportunity to put into place a sustainable development of the oceans and seas. He continued on to argue that the conservation of a healthy marine environment is the key to the improvement of competitiveness, long-term development and employment.

Referring to the deliberation process inaugurated by the Green Book, Mr. Kassimatis observed that the thematic strategy instituted by the European Union will be the environmental pillar of its future unified marine policy.

In conclusion, the Deputy President of Eurochambres deduced that the achievement of the right balance between all the variables that must be taken into account is the true success of the Green Book, and this success can be summarised in one word: viability. Viability of a competitive European shipping industry of quality, viability of the marine environment and its resources, with the goal of greater gains for European societies and future generations.