

Ferry and Cruise Panel

Thursday 12 December 2019, at 13:00

Held at the UK Chamber of Shipping, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions.

The attendance list for the Ferry and Cruise Panel held on 12 December 2019 is included in annex 1.

2. Update on administration of Ferry and Cruise Panel

The Panel were informed that the December meeting was to be the last chaired by Mr Lars Olsson of Stena Line. The Panel expressed its thanks for the contribution the outgoing Chair had made to the Panel.

Mr Les Stracey of Stena Line was announced as the new Chair while Mr Donnacha O'Driscoll of Carnival was announced as Vice-Chair. The Panel welcomed the incoming Chairs.

3. Ferry and Cruise Panel Strategy

The Panel were advised of the acceptance of a new Ferry and Cruise Strategy which received further support. Members welcomed the bold objectives set and encouraged the Panel to pursue these and maintain such levels of ambition in the future.

Action

- The Panel secretary will provide regular updates about the progress achieved towards the Panel's strategic objectives.

4. Environment

IMO Speed reduction

The Safety and Environment Policy Director provided an update on the IMO Intersessional Working Group met on 14 November to consider future methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A proposal to reduce emissions through enforced maximum speed limits was rejected and a new "goals based" approach will be recommended to the IMO MEPC in March 2020. The Safety and Environment Committee have approved this direction at the IMO and are advancing the Chamber's own work on decarbonisation. A decarbonisation conference is to be held on 9 January to develop the Chamber's position and members are invited to register their interest in attendance on the Chamber's website.

Carbon offsetting for passengers

The Panel had a detailed discussion regarding the benefits of carbon offsetting schemes. The Safety and Environment Committee Secretary outlined the Committee's concerns regarding such schemes. The DfT sought industry comments on a proposed voluntary carbon offsetting scheme in November 2019 and the Chamber responded doubting the benefits of such a scheme and making alternative recommendations. Concerns relate to the methodology for calculating different carbon liabilities across differing modal types and the differing ways in which such costs could be shared across maritime service users. A new IMO study was welcomed, and the Chamber will continue to engage with DfT assessing the credibility of such schemes.

Action

- The Ferry and Cruise Panel and Safety and Environment Committee will provide an update on DfT proposal for a voluntary carbon offsetting scheme.

5. Future Borders

Future Borders Strategy update

The Panel were notified that a future border working group is to be formed to consider ship owners interactions with UK border authorities. As there is continued uncertainty regarding UK immigration, the working group is presently confined to a consideration of HMRC and Border Force and is therefore better described as a Customs Working Group.

The Chair of the Customs Working Group (CWG) gave a report to the Panel. The first meeting of the CWG was held in the morning of 12 December. The meeting confirmed its terms of reference and identified key targets. The Group is to take a proactive approach to engaging with Government and other related trade associations, approaching future border controls not through a Brexit related lens, but looking to find better ways of managing trade flows. The group will write to Government outlining the key demands for alignment on ENS and UCC, for all modal types.

Future meetings of the CWG will consider the digitisation of cargo reporting, and how this relates to developing port infrastructure and logistic chain processes. A "single window" concept remains an ultimate objective for members.

Action

- To produce a letter outlining key demands for future custom controls. To invite other stakeholders to next meeting on 6 March 2020.

6. Inclusive Transport

Mobility Strategy update

The Chair of the new Mobility Working Group (MWG) provided a report of its inaugural meeting held on the morning of 12 December. It was reported the terms of reference were accepted, and the new Group welcomed the opportunity to focus more on this policy area.

The MWG secretary provided an update to all members of the Chamber engagement with DfT on the Government's "Everyone Journey" campaign. The Group supported the overall aims of the Government campaign. However, the group expressed some concerns about the value of some related initiatives. Promoting greater inclusive transport was something all members wanted to support, but the Panel recognised the need to emphasise the positive services which maritime passenger shipping provides and differentiate such actions from minimum requirements as stated in various passenger shipping legislation.

A presentation was made at the MWG by a representative of the organisation, "Hidden Disability". Hidden Disability have initiated a scheme where wearable identifiers depicting a sunflower can be purchased by users and recognised by service providers as an identification of someone who may need additional assistance in accessing or using their facility. Several members notified the group that they had adopted or were considering adoption of the scheme.

The Panel considered the benefits and costs of participation. It was identified that the scheme was potentially open to abuse and that managing user expectation may be difficult. The benefits included increased passengers and positive corporate social responsibility. However, the group encouraged the Chamber to coordinate a cross-sector support for the scheme.

Action

- The Group Secretary will officially propose that all Chamber members are to seek to support the Hidden Disability scheme.
- The Chamber will look to support the DfT "Everyone's Journey" campaign and seek to promote it during the Edinburgh Passenger shipping conference.

7. Plastics

Plastics Strategy update

The Chamber Policy Advisor for Plastics provided an update to the Panel of the Chamber's Plastics Charter. The most significant development was the removal of a list of identifiable plastic items which members were committed to removing from their vessels. The Chamber's Plastics Charter is to encourage Members to go beyond the work of the IMO and UK Government in removing the use of non-essential single-use plastics on board their vessels.

The Panel again offered its support to the Charter, recognising the importance of the initiative and its benefits to Member operations. The Panel debated a proposal that passenger shipping members take an independent approach to the Charter as the sector requires greater amounts of onboard consumable plastics and the risk of negative publicity was higher. No consensus was reached on this proposal and it was agreed the Chamber policy team would continue to develop the Charter and provide a further update to the Panel in March 2020.

Action

- Consider the possibility of an independent Passenger shipping plastics initiative.
- Provide an update to the Panel in March of the development of the Charter.

8. Regional Engagement

Regional Strategy update

The Panel secretary outlined a proposed Passenger Shipping Conference to be held in Edinburgh in June 2020. The Conference which is to be held with the British Ports Association and on the same day as the summer Ferry and Cruise Panel will encourage stakeholders to consider best practice for managing the impact of passenger shipping in local areas of the UK. The first is to be held in Edinburgh to coincide with the Scottish Government's "Year of Coasts and Water". A final itinerary will be shared with the Panel in March.

Members approved of the proposal and provided many valuable suggestions for objectives and activities. Members encouraged the Chamber to identify local stakeholders to work with in developing mutual policy interests. The Panel also recognised the value in highlighting international schemes for better shipping/local government engagement and encouraged the Chamber to consider this further.

Action

- The Panel Secretary will circulate a full itinerary for the event at the March Panel.
- The Panel Secretary will update members on a proposed strategy for better engagement with local port Members of Parliament in March 2020

9. Any Other Business

RoRo securing

The Panel were informed of the RoRo Workshop to be held on 22 January 2020. Please contact the Safety Secretary of the Safety and Environment Committee for further information.

Marine Equipment Directive

The Chamber's Safety and Environment Committee Secretary will provide an update when available of a new MCA authorised marine equipment certification process.

Passenger registration

The Panel secretary updated the Panel that no further updates were available on changes to passenger registration. The Secretary accepted that the uncertainty concerning this policy is not helpful for members and that pressure for clarity be applied on Home Office.

Action

- The Panel Secretary will provide an update at the March Panel on Home Office development of passenger registration policy.

Vehicle Deck Safety

Action

- An update from the Safety Culture Working Group will be provided at the March Panel on the National Maritime Occupational Health draft for Deck Safety guidance.

- A report from the RoRo Workshop on 22 January 2020 will also be provided.

Migrants

Action

- The Secretary will consolidate Member comments on the Carriers Liability Charge
- The secretary will provide an update to the Panel on engagement with ICIBI in March 2020.

Wage campaigns

Action

- The Employment Policy Director will provide an update to the Panel in March 2020 regarding the work of the Chamber's ad hoc working group on National Minimum wage and engagement with the RMT.

Grandfathering

Action

- Chamber to notify members of a future meeting to consider the Review of Standards for Older UK Passenger Ships.

Fire Safety

Action

- An update will be provided by the Dangerous Goods Working Group at June 2020 Panel regarding ongoing work at the ICS on better enforcement of IMDG code relating to combustible cargo.

Duty Free

The Panel requested the Panel secretary to liaise with HMRC to prepare for any future change on the treatment of duty-free goods on board vessels following the UK withdrawal from the EU.

Action

- The Chamber to provide an update on Government policy regarding duty free at the March 2020 Panel.

Innovation

The Panel were informed of an internal Chamber initiative which is hoped will be adopted at future meetings. It is proposed that a section of the meeting is designated to a member company to make a short presentation about an innovation they are making in their operations. This "Spotlight" session will also contribute to the Chamber's innovation work being organised through the Communications team.

The Secretary of the Ferry and Cruise Panel welcomes nominations for the first presentation at the March Panel.

Action

- A first "Spotlight" presentation will be arranged for the March 2020 Panel.

10. Next meeting

The next Ferry and Cruise Panel will be Thursday 5 March 2020 at 1300. The March Panel is open to Operators and Owners only. We thank all other members for their understanding.

The next Ferry and Cruise Panel open to all members will be the Joint Ferry and Cruise - British Ports Association Panel to be held in Edinburgh on 16 June 2020 at the Northern Lighthouse Board.