International Shipowners’ Association (INSA)

Address: 81-376 Gdynia, Sieroszewskiego 7, Poland.

Creation and aims

The agreement on the establishment of INSA was signed 27 June 1970 and entered into force at the date of signing. The aims of INSA are the promoting of cooperation among its members in respect of legal, documentary, technical, operational and general shipping policy problems of common concern, contributing to the application of principles for safe and free international navigation, and counteracting any discrimination affecting equal cooperation in international maritime trade.

Membership

Membership of INSA is open to any shipping company (private or state) active as merchant maritime carriers, or a national association of such companies, who declares readiness to comply with the Statutes and to cooperate within the Association accordingly.

Application for membership should be submitted in writing through the Secretariat. A preliminary decision regarding acceptance or rejection of the application is taken by the Council and is subject to the final decision of the General Assembly.

There are two groups of members: charter-members and regular members.

Founders of INSA who have signed the Agreement of Establishment of the International Shipowners’ Association are considered to be Charter-Members of INSA. They are the shipping companies of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, USSR and Yugoslavia. The shipping companies charter-members are entitled to transfer their membership rights to their national shipowner’s associations.

The regular members of the Association are shipping companies who belong or will belong to the Association after signing the Agreement of Establishment of INSA. By 1 January 1980 the regular members of INSA were 12 shipping companies owning a total tonnage of ships exceeding 40 million tons dead weight.
Any INSA member is entitled to be elected to any organs of the Association; to nominate candidates of the representative of its country to the Council and other bodies of the Association; to participate with the right to vote in the work of the General Assembly; to receive free of charge material pertaining to the activities of the Association; to comply with the Statutes resolutions of the General Assembly and decisions of the Council; and to pay the membership fees as laid down by the General Assembly.

Any member may terminate his membership after 3 months written notification to the Secretary-General. The exclusion of an INSA Member ensues after a preliminary decision of the Council subject to the final decision of the General Assembly. If the payment of membership fee is overdue by more than 3 months, the membership expires after a 1-month written notification to this effect has been made by the Secretary-General to the INSA Member concerned.

Structure

The organs of the Association are the General Assembly, Council, Secretariat, Auditors' Commission, and Standing Commission's Working Groups.

The General Assembly is the supreme authority of INSA. Regular meetings of the General Assembly take place every two years and are held in one of the countries of the INSA Members, in turn. By January 1981 seven meetings had been held. Special meetings of the General Assembly may be called at the request of any INSA member supported by a simple majority of INSA members.

The General Assembly may pass resolutions on all matters within the competence of INSA. It hears and approves the report of the President on the activity of INSA and the report of the Chairman of the Auditors' Commission on financial activities; takes decisions regarding admission and exclusion of INSA members; approves the budget of the Association, and determines the maximum rates and terms of payment of membership fees; and elects the President, the Vice-President and other members of the Council, as well as the Chairman of the Auditors' Commission and other Auditors—all for a term of 2 years. It may take decisions on dissolving the Association.

The General Assembly adopts resolutions on all items of the agenda. Resolutions may be passed in the form of decisions and recommendations. Decisions are taken on organizational or procedural matters of the Association, its Authorities and other bodies, and come into force immediately, unless provided otherwise. Recommendations are of an advisory character.

The Council is an executive organ of the Association. It consists of a maximum of eleven Council Members, including the President and the Vice-