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Competitiveness represents the main challenge

Assessment of German coalition agreement by the German Shipowners' Association

Alfred Hartmann, President of the German Shipowners' Association (*Verband Deutscher Reeder – VDR*), has this to say regarding the coalition agreement:

“We are satisfied on the whole with the outcome of the negotiations of the CDU, CSU and SPD. The maritime sector is assessed as a strategic industry for Germany and the necessity is understood to keep the location of Germany competitive on an international scale.

The maritime shipping industry is undergoing rapid change worldwide, intensified even further by digitalisation and increasing requirements relating to climate and environmental protection. For this reason, the German federal government constantly needs to monitor the level of competitiveness of maritime shipping in Germany and – where necessary – adopt suitable measures to reinforce it. Against this backdrop, the agreement to create a competitive tax system in an international and European context certainly is a correct approach.

We share the criticism of the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (*Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen Arbeitgeberverbände – BDA*) on the restrictions concerning employment agreements subject to time limits under labour law. These must not be allowed to weaken job opportunities for German seafarers and their coming generations in the fiercely competitive global economic environment.

The fact that the Maritime Agenda 2025 is to be implemented and the promotional and financing instruments are to be extended is an encouraging sign from the coalition parties to protect top-quality workplaces, expertise and value added in the German maritime sector for the future, too.”

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Photographs of Alfred Hartmann: <http://www.reederverband.de/en/press/press-images.html>

German Shipowners' Association:

The German Shipowners' Association is a leading professional association within the German business community. On behalf of around 200 member companies, the VDR represents the German shipping industry with the fourth-largest merchant navy fleet in the world. As an employers' association, the VDR conducts collective bargaining and social partner negotiations. The founders, in 1907, were regional associations of shipowners, with the aim of facilitating common and uniform management of interests. Today, the German Shipowners' Association represents German maritime shipping not only in Berlin and Bonn, but also in Brussels, London, Geneva and on a global scale. Further particulars are available at: www.reederverband.de.